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More on Grachev Address to Defense, Foreign Ministers Session

LD2408141793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1358 GMT 24 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Naryshkin and Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow August 24 TASS—A decision to make the CIS allied armed forces supreme command the headquarters for coordination of military cooperation was initialed by all participants in a meeting of the Council of Defence Ministers here today, Russian Defence Minister Army General Pavel Grachev told a joint meeting of the Council of Defence Ministers and the Council of Foreign Ministers.

The general stressed after national armies are formed the question of allied armed forces to involve commonwealth states-members of the collective security treaty may be raised.

As for the provision of safety on the Tajik-Afghan border, all the defence ministers "came to a conclusion coalition forces and their single command must be formed", said Grachev. The meeting also decided to create a "coalition base for material and technical supply of these forces".

The major base will be located in the area of Dushanbe, and the reserve base in Khorog. The bases will also accommodate main and reserve command posts of the coalition forces. Each state will finance its military contingents on Tajik territory. All transportations on territory of states-participants in the collective security treaty related to supplies to the coalition forces with the exception of plane fueling shall be done free of charge.

An agreement on coalition forces and provisions on their command will be submitted by the defence ministers to a meeting of the Council of State heads.

At the same time, "we decided to send to Dushanbe a working group from each state before September 7. Their members will meet the Tajik leadership, representatives of the border troops, the National Security Committee and the Interior Ministry to jointly specify responsibility zones" of each state-participant in the collective security treaty in Tajikistan.

Then, a decision on composition of their troops on Tajik territory will be taken.

The general stressed Russia will not introduce additional contingents in Russia, since the Russian 201st Motorized Infantry Division has been fully staffed. "We have recommended other states to include in coalition forces motorized regiments enhanced by artillery, engineering and reconnaissance units," he said.

"If some states, for instance, Kyrgyzstan, fail to do it, we will proceed from their possibilities and peculiarities of terrain," said the general.

Decision Made To Reorganize Joint Armed Forces Command

LD2408142393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1355 GMT 24 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS military analyst Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow August 24 TASS—The decision to reorganise before the end of 1993 the Chief Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces into a headquarters for coordinating military cooperation, adopted today by a meeting of the Defence Ministers Council, will be initialled later in the day. This decision gives the Chief Command the status of a permanent working body under the Defence Ministers Council and abolishes the post of commander-in-chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, formally still held by Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov. The ministers appointed Viktor Samsonov as chief of the headquarters. Until today, he was chief of staff of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Chief Command.

This decision, adopted by the heads of the military establishments of CIS states is subject to approval by the Heads of State Council which is to meet in Moscow on September 7. It necessitates the annulment or specification of several international legal acts to which the Chief Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces was a party. The Defence Ministers Council is to draw up their list and submit it to the presidents, but it is already clear today that changes to the charter of the Commonwealth and to some national legislations cannot be avoided.

The heads of the military establishments of six parties to the treaty on collective security also adopted a decision on the principal ways to coordinate their joint efforts to enhance their defence capacity and deepen military cooperation. The document includes 11 main areas of cooperation, including steps to set up common anti-aircraft defence systems, early warning systems for preventing missile attacks, to control outer space, and also to draw up a long-term concept of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

The discussion of two more problems relating to the formation of coalitional defence forces on the territory of Tajikistan and to the statute of their command will be continued today at a joint meeting of the Defence Ministers Council and the Foreign Ministers Council. It will be attended only by representatives from countries-parties to the treaty on collective security. In principle, agreement on the formation of such forces has already been reached, but it remains to determine the quotas and the zones for which each party shall be responsible. The elaboration of these problems was entrusted to Colonel-General Boris Pyankov, former deputy commander-in-chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. He will apparently be charged also with the command of the CIS coalition forces in Tajikistan.

The Defence Ministers Council also discussed the mechanism for the implementation of the collective security treaty of May 15, 1992. Its signatories have agreed to the

structure of military- political bodies charged with the implementation of the treaty, proposed by the Russian delegation. In accordance with this concept, the Collective Security Council (CSC) is to play the role of a directing body and to include the heads of the CIS states, their Defence and Foreign Ministries, as well as the CSC secretary- general. The military bodies, directly subordinated to the CSC, will include the Defence Ministers Council, the Chief of Staffs Committee and the headquarters for coordinating military cooperation among the signatories of the collective security treaty. The political committee, made up of CIS foreign ministers, will be charged with coordinating the foreign policy of the states-parties to the treaty.

The final decision on all these matters will be adopted by the CIS heads of state, but today's meeting of the Defence Ministers Council has shown that, despite pessimistic forecasts, integrational tendencies continue to dominate the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Slavic Union Talks Seen Enhancing Role of Prime Ministers

MK2408121493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Aug 93 p 1

[Vitaliy Portnikov commentary in "Integration" rubric: "Premiers of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia Meet in Moscow. An Economic Union or a Union of Premiers?"]

[Text] Today Viktor Chernomyrdin will again receive in Moscow the prime ministers of Ukraine and Belarus, Leonid Kuchma and Vyacheslav Kebich. The previous tripartite meeting by the heads of government of the former Soviet republics was marked by a sensation comparable perhaps only with the events in Belovezhskaya Forest: Again a tripartite union, but this time an economic one, apparently open to all those willing to join it and at the same time separated from them by a wall of government solidarity. After the declaration by the premiers of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus not a few events have occurred, the main one among which is perhaps a sharp reaction on the part of Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev and other Central Asian leaders, whereupon the presidents of Russia and of the countries in the region "bypassed" by the Slavic premiers have again spoken in favor of an economic union for all the former Soviet republics wishing to join it. And nonetheless, the three premiers are again meeting without their colleagues from Central Asia.

What is the reason for this high activity by the prime ministers? Could it be seen as ignoring the presidential will, or as a Russian foreign policy maneuver seeking on one hand to win support from Ukraine and Belarus, and on the other, not to let go of Kazakhstan and Central Asia? The situation seems more intelligible if it is measured not in economic but in political terms.

Viktor Chernomyrdin's influence is consolidating. The head of the Russian Government is concentrating increasing powers in his hands, and what is most important is that he has virtually remained outside the exhausting fight between the power structures, the presidential and parliamentary teams. Chernomyrdin comes off very well against the backdrop of the speaker's and the vice premier's trying to compete with the Russian president. For many years now he has preserved a firm position at the top; he has the experience of real and not populist power, which also helps his stand next to Yeltsin. A fairly compromise figure, who does not raise objections even on the part of realistically minded presidential opponents. Viktor Chernomyrdin is relying on the solid support of "fuel and energy generals." It is in this capacity that he can be recognized as a welcome partner in talks with Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, and even oil producing regions in Russia. Chernomyrdin's influence and prospects today cannot be underestimated. Just like the influence and prospects of the Belarusian premier, Vyacheslav Kebich is also supported by the industrial enterprise director corps and the power elite in his country, against the background of the fairly unstable position of Belarus Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich. Apparently the Belarusian premier is going to react seriously to possible changes in the "upper reaches of power" in Belarus. Premier Leonid Kuchma's position is somewhat more complicated but nonetheless it is clear that during the months of his premiership he has emerged as an independent political figure with a good popularity rating, although President Leonid Kravchuk hardly expected this. In addition, just like his colleagues from Moscow and Minsk, Kuchma is a creature of the director corps. It is generally known that the relations between Kuchma and Chernomyrdin are far more cloudless and close than the relations between Presidents Kravchuk and Yeltsin.

Many bitter words have already been spoken about the possibilities of a genuine economic union. Of course, it would be a good idea, but... would it be beneficial? Or realistic? So, it is not an economic union but rather a union of premiers? We shall not insist on this against the presidents' will, but it needs to be observed, however, that the weight of governments and their leaders is increasing all the time. The tripartite meeting in Moscow is yet another proof of that.

Further on Yeltsin's Visit to Poland

Visit Marks 'Historic Breakthrough'

LD2508123893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1214 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Potyomkin, Yuriy Sizov, Gennadiy Talalayev, and Igor Shamshin]

[Text] Warsaw August 25 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin told a press conference here today that "there is no room for hegemony and dictatorship, the psychology of a big brother and a little brother in new Russian-Polish relations". He said relations between the two countries were based on principles of respect for sovereignty, non-intervention, equality, partnership and mutual attention to the vital interests of the peoples of the two countries".

Yeltsin noted that the treaty of friendly and good-neighbourly cooperation signed by himself with President Lech Walesa in Moscow in May of last year provided a powerful impulse to the development of relations. Now after signing a package of more than 20 important documents during the current visit, it is possible to say that a legal framework has been created for interaction. "This is a historic breakthrough in relations between our two Slav countries, the beginning of a new chronology in the dialogue between the Russian and Polish peoples," Yeltsin said.

He noted that much work was lying ahead to consolidate all this. According to the Russian president, much has been done to overcome the negative heritage which gave rise to mutual apprehension and distrust. The main documents have been published and the people involved in the Katyn tragedy have been named. Conditions are being created to immortalize the memory of the Polish people who died in it.

"It is possible to say that an entire era is coming to a close in yet another field—the last unit of the Russian Army will soon have leaved Poland forever", the Russian president said. "We agree today that the Russian troops not as agreed, on December 31 this year, but three months earlier, that is by October 1".

Boris Yeltsin drew attention to the fact that the renovation of a mechanism of interaction and the transition of the two countries to a market economy have weakened spiritual ties between the two peoples, active contacts between workers and culture have dwindled to a minimum, as have exchanges in books, periodicals and films. "There is no other country in the world outside Poland where Polish film directors, actors and intellectuals are saw popular as in Russia. For centuries our cultures have cooperated very fruitfully. We must not permit this dialogue to be interrupted", Yeltsin said.

"Economic subjects dominated in our talks and in the package of the documents signed," Yeltsin said. "Agreements have been reached which lay down the mutually beneficial partnership character of our relations. This is the substance of the joint declaration and the trade and economic agreement. This is not surprising. Political and economic reforms in our countries have changed conditions of our cooperation. Economic ties between our countries, particularly in the field of co-production have been weakened. A mechanism of payments has still not been worked out", said Yeltsin.

Speaking about the agreement on building system of gas pipelines for Russian natural gas transit across Polish territory, the Russian president noted that "the implementation of this project will not only impart new stimuli to our trade and economic cooperation but increase energy security of many countries of the European continent, Poland above all".

According to Yeltsin, he has reached an accord with the Polish president to look for solutions to the problems which continue to exist between the two countries, including problem of mutual payments.

"On the whole we regard this visit as a success, Yeltsin stressed. I found it easy to talk with and look for solutions with President Lech Walesa. We handling the same problems, and our approaches can be described in one word—reforms. Reforms which will give our peoples welfare and a worthy place in the modern world," Yeltsin said.

Yeltsin Declares Poland of 'Prime Importance'

LD2408183193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1801 GMT 24 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Aleksandr Potemkin, Yuriy Sizov, Gennadiy Talalayev, and Igor Shamshin]

[Text] Warsaw August 24 TASS—"Russia attaches prime importance to Poland amongst East European countries," Russian President Boris Yeltsin told correspondents at the Warsaw Okecie airport. In his words, Poland has always played a big role in eastern Europe.

Noting a certain recession in the Russian-Polish relations in 1991, the president said the situation started to change for the better already in 1992. "We have been and will be friends with Poland, and we think this friendship is very important," said the Russian leader.

The visit is expected to witness the signing of eight major documents, including two extremely important. These are the treaty on trade and economic cooperation and an intergovernmental agreement on creation of a system of gas pipelines to provide Poland and other European states with Russian fuel.

During the official visit and negotiations with Polish President Lech Walesa the sides will compare their stands on fulfilment of last May's treaty on bilateral friendly and good-neighbourly cooperation, said the

president. Besides, "it is necessary to elaborate a number of new interaction mechanisms, as the old ones seems to fail".

"We will also have a serious conversation with President Walesa on ways to boost bilateral cooperation," said Yeltsin.

Speaking of the role and place of eastern Europe in foreign political priorities of new Russia, the president recalled after Warsaw he will come on working visits to the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and "visits to other European states" are possible in November-December.

The Russian president was welcomed by Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski and other officials at the plane ladder.

Boris Yeltsin and members of the Russian delegation, which includes First Vice-Premier Oleg Lobov, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, left the airport for the Parkowa governmental residence.

On the same day, the Russian and Polish presidents will meet in a narrow circle. The meeting will be held in a countryside palace in the helenuw locality near Warsaw.

Joint Declaration Signed

LD2508084493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Aug 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The most important and busiest day of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's official visit to the Republic of Poland began this morning with a ceremony near the ancient Belweder Palace in Warsaw. He arrived here yesterday at the invitation of the Polish head of state on a three-day visit.

Boris Yeltsin and Lech Walesa signed today a joint declaration which contains a positive assessment of the state of relations between Poland and Russia. The two presidents also signed a treaty on trade and economic cooperation. Vice prime ministers of Russia and Poland signed an intergovernment agreement on the creation of a system of gas pipelines to transport Russian gas via the territory of the Republic of Poland and on export of Russian Federation gas to Poland. According to this project, which is already being described here as a contract of the century, Poland will additionally receive 14 billion cubic meters of natural gas. The cost of the Polish section of the planned pipeline exceeds 4 million dollars.

Bilateral Cooperation Agreements Signed

LD2508094493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0921 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Aleksandr Potemkin, Yuriy Sizov, Gennadiy Talalayev, and Igor Shamshin]

[Text] Warsaw August 25 TASS—A package of major bilateral documents was signed here on Wednesday during the official visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Poland.

Yeltsin and Polish leader Lech Walesa signed the joint declaration summing up cooperation between the two states and indicating specific ways for bilateral cooperation in future.

The sides also signed the treaty on trade and economic cooperation as well as agreements on building gas pipelines to pump Russian gas to Western Europe, on cooperation in science, technology, culture, environmental control, prevention of industrial disasters, natural calamities and work to do away with their aftermaths.

Stankevich Sees Poland as 'Strategic Ally'

LD2308195993 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1700 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Report on interview with Sergey Stankevich, political adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, by Moscow correspondent Andrejz Siezieniewski, in Moscow, on eve of Yeltsin visit to Poland; Stankevich speaks in Russian with superimposed Polish translation; Stankevich remarks recorded]

[Text] [Siezieniewski] Stankevich is a politician who, as a member of Boris Yeltsin's team, has been dealing with Polish affairs for years. This has, no doubt, been influenced also by his Polish origins. He knows our country and its history. That is why my first question concerned the history of Polish-Russian relations.

There have been more bad periods than good in our history. Are we doomed in any way?

[Stankevich] I do not think so. In various periods, opportunities were not used properly in order to establish good relations. The aim of the people and political forces who were in power was to dominate rather than cooperate as equal partners. I am convinced that now, for the first time in history, an opportunity has arisen to break with the bad tradition and to create foundations for totally new bilateral relations based on equality, as well as being free of the long-standing animosity and lack of mutual trust, free of prejudice, and oriented toward long-term and multi-faceted cooperation.

Russia is very interested in Poland as a strategic ally. I think that you would also like to regard us as allies. Therefore, a normal dialogue should commence as a

matter of priority. We should understand each other, understand our real interests, and act according to them.

[Siezieniewski] When asked whether Boris Yeltsin's visit to Warsaw, which is starting tomorrow, has resulted from such logic and whether it would contribute to overcoming the difficulties experienced so far, Sergey Stankevich said:

[Stankevich] A breakthrough may not take place but it will be an important step, another step in the development of Russian-Polish relations, particularly economic relations. This is in fact the first visit by the Russian president, which is of a clearly economic nature and which proves that our policy is pragmatic, as we are making efforts to create something concrete and are not just satisfied with symbols. We know each other too well to waste time on rituals and protocol.

[Siezieniewski] Let us get down to work, Sergey Stankevich, Boris Yeltsin's political adviser, said.

Commentary: 'Rebuilding Burned Bridges'

PM2508115993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "B. Yeltsin's East European Tour: Rebuilding Burned Bridges"]

[Text] There are all the signs that Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin's visits to Poland, and then to the Czech Republic and Slovakia, which began 24 August, are in line with the definition of "getting moving" Russia's interstate relations with these countries. This is illustrated by the extremely well-organized program for the Russian president's visit and the contents of the attache case that he is taking with him.

The visit to Poland is described as an official one—a full-scale visit, in the language of the bureaucrats. This does not only mean the hosts' according all official honors when meeting with the eminent guest during his visit, but also a broader negotiating process. IZVESTIYA's correspondent was told by V. Fedorenko, a high-ranking Russian Foreign Ministry representative, that during the preparations for this visit it proved possible to formulate about a dozen draft Russian-Polish documents. The main one being a Treaty on Trade and Economic Cooperation. As you know, a major treaty on friendly and good-neighborly cooperation between Russia and Poland was signed during President L. Walesa's visit to Moscow last May. Thus, both sides have shown the political will to develop full-fledged ties between the two countries.

However, we inherited a grave legacy from the period of Soviet-Polish relations. Primarily an unregulated foreign debt which Russia should have paid as the rightful heir of the Union. Differences in the system of calculating this debt held up the development of trade. It has nonetheless proved possible as a result of lengthy talks to prepare a draft treaty laying a new foundation for trade and economic relations. It talks about world prices and developing direct ties between producers with state support.

Undoubtedly, a fillip will be given to resolving the debt problem during B. Yeltsin's talks with L. Walesa and Polish Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka. What is more, the sides intend to sign a whole series of agreements, including one on the construction of a system of gas pipelines for Russian gas shipments to Poland, the transit of gas to Western Europe, and cooperation in such spheres as science, technology, culture, ecology, employment, and the customs system. Thus, an adequate legal base will emerge for boosting Russian-Polish ties. Some 270 bilateral documents signed by Poland and the former USSR are being revised at the same time. Although it has been deemed advisable to leave some of them in force.

Of course, during this visit President Yeltsin will hardly skirt the issue of the small group of Russian servicemen still in Poland, along with the problem of the troops withdrawn from Germany crossing Polish territory—a problem that has been exacerbated of late. His attache case also contains a number of proposals pertaining to this issue.

After a day in Warsaw the Russian Federation president will pay brief working visits to the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The program allocates just three or four hours apiece for his talks with the leaders of these states. It is hardly possible to clear in such a short time the barriers that formed after the breakup of CEMA and the Warsaw Pact and to extricate bilateral trade and economic ties from their state of stagnation. But progress is expected in the political sphere—the sides may be able to sign treaties on friendship and good-neighborliness, thus drawing a line under the period of insults, mainly linked with the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia in 1968. According to S. Yastrzhembskiy, Russian Federation ambassador to Bratislava, this will remove the "cold fetters" that are holding up the process of normal relations and links between our traditionally friendly Slav peoples.

Slovak Government Approves Friendship Treaty With Russia

LD2508101093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0922 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Beskromny]

[Text] Bratislava August 25 TASS—The government of the Slovak Republic, meeting here on Tuesday, approved the text of the treaty on friendship and cooperation between Russia and Slovakia. The document is expected to be signed by Slovak President Michal Kovac and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who will pay a working visit to Bratislava on August 26.

"The Russo-Slovak treaty," it was noted by Slovak Foreign Minister Josef Moravcik, "meets the principles

of the Slovak Republic's foreign policy, corresponds to the universally accepted principles of international law and to the Slovak Republic's commitments under other international documents.

The Bratislava newspaper "REPUBLICA" stressed today that the treaty rests on the traditional friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries, takes into account the indepth political and economic changes in both states, in Europe and in the world as a whole. This is not a treaty of alliance, but it presupposes close cooperation in all the areas of bilateral relations and interaction on the international arena. "The document," the newspaper stresses, "also condemns the inhuman essence of totalitarism, which found expression in the violation of the principles of international law in 1968."

Yeltsin Sees Eastern Europe as 'Priority' Area

LD2408130393 Prague CTK in English 1216 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, August 24 (CTK)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin leaves for a two-day official visit to Poland later today. On his way back he will make two roughly five-hour stops in Prague and Bratislava. According to Russian diplomatic sources his visit aims to confirm that eastern Europe is a priority in Russian foreign policy.

Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar, who visited Moscow on Monday, confirmed that Yeltsin will sign a Russian-Slovak treaty on mutual relations in Bratislava on Thursday. At the same time First Deputy Premier Oleg Lobov indicated indirectly that it was not yet clear whether a similar document would be signed with the Czech Republic as well. He said that in Bratislava the treaty would be signed whether or not it is signed in Prague.

According to Russian Foreign Ministry officials it is being assumed that Yeltsin will sign the treaty in Prague. Though changes cannot be ruled out, the signing of the treaty has for the time being been included in Yeltsin's programme, a Russian diplomat told CTK. Czech diplomatic sources in Moscow did not confirm the information.

The text of the treaty was practically ready, the Russian Foreign Ministry representative said. He said the preamble of the document included the condemnation of the Soviet invasion in 1968. The passage concerning these events was approximately the same as in the Russian-Czechoslovak 1992 treaty, added the Russian diplomat who works in the department in charge of the Czech Republic's problems.

The document, which was signed by Yeltsin and Vaclav Havel (then Czechoslovak president) in April 1992 and which has never been initialled due to the subsequent split of Czechoslovakia, said that both states wished to definitively settle accounts with the totalitarian past connected with inadmissible use of force against Czechoslolvakia in 1968 and with the consequent unjustified presence of the Soviet troops on Czechoslovak territory. Yeltsin told journalists last week that Russia could not apologise for 1968 because it was not Russia's action but that of the Soviet Union. He stressed that Russia was also a victim of the totalitarian regime.

The text of the treaty on mutual relations and cooperation has a long history. The preparation of the document started in 1990 during Havel's visit to Moscow, which was then the capital of the Soviet Union.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union and Russia's assumption of the Soviet Union's international obligations a text was drawn up which was signed by Presidents Yeltsin and Havel in Moscow on April 1, 1992. The treaty was the first document of the kind concluded by Russia with a country of the former eastern bloc. After the breakup of Czechoslovakia two new independent documents started to be drafted.

Yeltsin visited Prague last time in may 1991 as chairman of the Russian parliament. It was at a press conference in June 1993 that he first mentioned his intention to make a stop in the Czech Republic at the same time as his Polish visit. Last week he said that he would do this at Havel's urgent request.

According to unofficial sources, Yeltsin's schedule of foreign visits was worked out so that from the beginning of September he could be fully engaged on the internal political scene which is currently riven by sharp fights in connection with ever new corruption scandals involving top state officials. Politicians and observers in Moscow agree that a hot autumn is awaiting Yeltsin in Moscow.

Czech Foreign Minister on Russian Relations

LD2508081893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0747 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Yakovlev]

[Text] Prague August 25 TASS—Relations between the Czech Republic and the Russian Federation have good prospects, they are successfully developing in conditions of dynamic changes in both countries, Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zelenec told a group of Russian journalists on the eve of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's brief working visit to the Czech Republic.

At present Russia is going through certain domestic difficulties, but it is a great power and its role in the world politics, above all in Europe, is beyond doubt, the minister said.

That we have turn to West does not mean that we have turned our back to Russia, he said. We are trying to conduct and active Eastern policy. The basis of our mutual relations, recognised by both our countries—is respect for universally accepted standards of interstate relations and mutually beneficial trade. This enables us to look to future with optimism.

Considerable progress has been made in the course of discussion of a treaty of friendship and cooperation

between the Czech Republic and the Russian Federation, Zelenec said. But this document will not be signed during Boris Yeltsin's upcoming brief working visit to Prague. The reason for this is that the governments and the public opinion of the Czech Republic attach great importance to this document which is expected to turn a new page in the history of bilateral relations. This is why, the signing of the treaty must take place in a more formal situation. For instance during the Czech president's visit to Moscow or an official visit by the Russian president to the Czech Republic, Zelenec said.

More on Suspension of Russian Withdrawal from Lithuania

Foreign Ministry Official Comments on Situation

PM2408145393 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24 Aug 93 p 7

[Boris Glebov report under the general headline: "Lithuanian Bill. Withdrawal of Russian Troops From Lithuania Suspended"]

[Text] In a telephone conversation with your KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent, Viktor Isakov, head of the Russian state delegation at the Russian-Lithuanian talks and Russian Federation Foreign Ministry special envoy, expressed his viewpoint on the reasons for the breakdown of the talks on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania.

According to Viktor Isakov, back in May this year the Lithuanian side handed over a final draft of the text of the treaty with personal amendments by Lithuanian President Brazauskas. In order to accommodate Lithuania, the Russian side agreed to the amendments. But there was no provision in the draft treaty about any material compensation payable by Russia for sending Soviet troops onto Lithuanian territory in 1940.

And then suddenly, two weeks before 31 August—the day on which the final withdrawal of Russian units was scheduled to take place—the Lithuanian side demanded that Russia start talks on material compensation for sending Soviet troops into Lithuania in 1940 no later than one month after the aforementioned agreement had been signed. The sum demanded of Russia in compensation was astronomical: Somewhere in the region of $146 billion! (The entire population of Lithuania could live off this sum for a whole century without producing anything).

It is obvious that nobody in Lithuania expects "compensation" of this magnitude to be paid. The aim, according to Isakov, is to disrupt the talks on troop withdrawal. The Lithuanian leadership itself is not hiding the fact that it does not want this agreement. However, after 31 August Russia will have no need of this agreement either. As Isakov stated: "Russia is not running out of Lithuania. We have held talks about withdrawing troops from Lithuania as two sovereign states that respect one another. And it would be impossible to expect more goodwill than Russia has shown (in holding these talks)... However, life has shown that the Lithuanian side never had, nor does it have, any desire to conclude an agreement! Today the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania has been completely suspended. They will be withdrawn when it suits Russia... As far as Lithuania's demands for compensation are concerned, Russia will turn around and get out of Lithuania without paying compensation of any sort."

Churkin: Opposition to Blame for Crisis

LD2408134693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1306 GMT 24 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Aug—The statement that the president of Lithuania's visit has been cancelled is not quite correct. "There has been no official bilateral announcement of this visit and so we never considered it fixed," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin stated at a briefing today. He criticized the current opposition forces in Lithuania. It would appear, Churkin noted, that certain figures, for the sake of the interests of purely internal political fighting, are ready to sacrifice the supreme national interests. "I would like to hope that the development of normal relations between our countries will not be sacrificed at every opportunity to score points in an internal political fight."

The deputy minister expressed the hope that the Russian-Lithuanian talks would be continued in a constructive spirit. Speaking about the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Lithuania, he reported that this process had already been 95 percent implemented, and only about 2,400 men remain there.

'Diplomat' Cited on Breakdown of Talks

PM2408115993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Aleksandr Shalnyev report: "Moscow Rejects Act of Capitulation Which Lithuania Attempted To Foist on It"]

[Text] "Moscow was offered an act of capitulation to sign. Moscow did not accept it." These were the words used in a conversation with me by a high-ranking Russian diplomat in assessing the failure of the latest round of talks with Vilnius and the cancellation of the visit to Moscow by Lithuanian leader Brazauskas, who was due on Monday to sign with President Yeltsin an agreement on the withdrawal of troops from Lithuania.

The talks have been disrupted, the visit cancelled, and troop withdrawal suspended. The question of when withdrawal will resume and, what is more, how the situation with Lithuania will now affect relations with Latvia and Estonia, is extremely difficult and unclear.

Clarifying Russia's position, the diplomat, who took a direct part in the talks with the Lithuanians, stressed: "We have no remaining doubts that they simply tried to lead us on... Back on 21 May Brazauskas sent Yeltsin a draft agreement which did not contain a single word about our paying compensation to Lithuania for the period since 1940. And then suddenly, out of the blue, this wording appears at the very last moment when the text of the agreement has already been approved by the leaders of the two countries and it only remains to be signed. We do appreciate," the diplomat went on, "that Brazauskas is under pressure from the opposition, but we have our own opposition here, too. The Lithuanians cite the results of their referendum, which supported demands for compensation. But, you know, if we held a referendum on the question of whether we should demand compensation from the Lithuanians for the real estate, the thousands upon thousands of facilities which we are leaving them, it is clear what the answer would be."

As the diplomat stressed, the Russian Foreign Ministry realizes what reaction in the world, and in the West in particular, will be to the disruption of the talks and the suspension of troop withdrawal. But, in the first instance, he said, we have to consider our own interests, Russian interests. According to him, Russia is fully prepared to resume talks at any time, "but we do not want to hold talks for the sake of talks."

As a point of information the diplomat recalled that with all other countries from which Russian troops have been withdrawn—Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland, for example—Russia "has agreed to call it quits."

Regarding possible world reaction, I would like to note a detail: The series of laws in the United States which regulate the provision of aid and assistance to Russia in the sphere of economic reforms contains categorical provisions which envisage the blocking and freezing of all and any aid if Russian troop withdrawal from the Baltic region is not carried out strictly as scheduled. One such provision was proposed by Albert Gore, the current vice president.

And one more thing: One week before Vilnius disrupted the talks, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev went on a flying visit to Sweden to clarify to the Swedes, among other things, our position on the question of troop withdrawal and to obtain understanding and support from Stockholm in the form, for example, of its exercising some influence upon Lithuania. It transpires that Moscow did not obtain understanding or support.

Lithuania Has 'Itself to Blame'

PM2408181193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Aug 93 p 3

[Sergey Knyazkov report: "Sum of $146 Billion Plucked 'Out of Thin Air.' 'Autonomous' Lithuanian Expert Greatly Complicates Relations Between Russia and Lithuania"]

[Text] On 23 August the Lithuanian Embassy in Moscow faxed KRASNAYA ZVEZDA a statement by Audrius Butkevicius, national defense minister and chief Lithuanian Government representative for questions of the Russian troop withdrawal, in connection with the Russian Federation Defense Ministry statement of 22 August 1993. It follows from the statement that there are at present in the republic only 1,500 Russian servicemen in Klaipeda, 300 in Kaunas, 300 in Gaiziunai, 130 in Vilnius, 120 in Siauliai, 80 in Linkaiciai, and 10 in Panevezis, and that "there are no technical obstacles to completing the troop withdrawal." Especially as over 85 percent of military equipment has already been withdrawn from Lithuanian territory and all remaining military facilities have been fully prepared for handover to Lithuania. Butkevicius ends his statement with an assurance that "all differences that have arisen can and must be settled by means of talks in the immediate future."

There is no doubt that the Russian side has a similar desire. But Lithuania has primarily itself to blame for wrecking the talks and suspending the troop withdrawal. BALTFAX reports that in a 23 August Lithuanian radio interview Lithuanian Republic President Algirdas Brazauskas criticized comments by a member of the Lithuanian delegation at the talks with Russia, who according to him "put into circulation" the sum of $146 billion which Lithuania is allegedly demanding as compensation for damage caused by Russia. According to Brazauskas, this sum "was not agreed with anybody," but it is this that has become one of the main obstacles to continuing the dialogue between Vilnius and Moscow.

According to Brazauskas the problem of relations with Russia, in particular the Russian Army's withdrawal and the reimbursement for the damage caused, will be discussed in Riga 27 August at a meeting of the Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian presidents.

IZVESTIYA Comments on Tension

PM2408180193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Nikolay Lashkevich report: "Tension Between Russia and Lithuania Increases"]

[Text] Political passions over the Russian leadership's decision to suspend the troop withdrawal continue to rage in Lithuania.

A statement signed by V. Landsbergis stressed that by abandoning the talks the Russian Foreign Ministry has made a crude political step reminiscent of "Gorbachev's erroneous behavior after 11 March 1990." But Landsbergis distinguished the "evil will" of the Russian foreign policy department, which has set itself the aim of "torpedoing the peace process in the Baltic region," from the "goodwill" of the Russian president and Armed Forces, which apparently still want to withdraw the troops, and he called the Russian Foreign Ministry statement a "political provocation" behind which lies the "desire to stir up conflict."

As regards provocations, people in Lithuania are expecting them precisely from the Russian side—Lithuanians recall the past experience of the Soviet policy of "divide and rule." According to National Defense Ministry data there are now around 2,500 Russian servicemen left in Russia. The attitude toward them will certainly now be far from welcoming and amicable. There are fears in Lithuania that the Russian special services will be able to exploit this and other circumstances with a view to accusing Lithuania of intransigence and impatience. Even the opposition, which is inclined toward demonstrative political gestures and protest actions, fears such provocative actions.

Lithuanian President A. Brazauskas and the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry are continuing to call for calm and for considered assessments. Thus, in its statement the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry stressed that Lithuania's official position is "to create a calm situation for the servicemen located in Lithuania and their family members, as well as the conditions for an unhindered troop withdrawal." In the opinion of Lithuanian diplomats, talks are the only civilized way of solving the problem. Measures involving political, military, economic pressure, the statement stresses, are unacceptable to Lithuania.

According to Lithuanian observers' assessments, the greatest burden of responsibility for the current worsening of bilateral relations must be borne by the Lithuanian state delegation, which did not hold back from joining in political clashes over the troop withdrawal problem and which was subjected to various political influences. On the Lithuanian side, that is, Brazauskas has already made complaints against it in his television speech. Answering IZVESTIYA's question about an assessment of the delegation's activity, Seimas Deputy Chairman A. Sakalas did not let it escape criticism either. While J. Paleckis, the president's foreign policy adviser, gave to understand that the delegation's composition might be changed. However, on the whole both the Lithuanian opposition and official authorities regard Russia's actions as unfriendly and they lay the main blame on the Russian side.

Plans for retaliatory actions should the troops simply fail to be withdrawn are now being worked on in Lithuania. It cannot be ruled out that the republic will appeal to the Council of Europe, of which it is a member, and that it will actively oppose Russia's attempts to join this organization. Furthermore, Lithuania will possibly appeal to the UN Security Council and other international organizations, try to quickly introduce visa and passport regulations, tighten up control over the transit of Russian citizens from Kaliningrad Oblast and border control as a whole, and start hindering the vital activity of military units left in Lithuania in any way it can. National Defense Minister A. Butkevicius stated on television that if Russia brings in additional troop contingents the National Defense Ministry is prepared to "block" such actions. Furthermore, according to him, Lithuania will regard this as aggression. What this means in practice needs no explanation, I think.

Crisis Rooted in 'Domestic Lithuanian Politics'

PM2408142993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Aug 93 First Edition p 7

[Yuriy Stroganov article: "Lithuania: Right-Wingers Play the Enemy Card"]

[Text] The promised visit to Moscow by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas once again did not take place 23 August, just as it did not 5 August. The signing of the agreement on the Russian troops' withdrawal from the republic's territory, which has already virtually taken place, has again been postponed: There remain in the country only just over 2,000 soldiers and officers, who do not constitute a battle-worthy contingent. The Russian Foreign Ministry's belated statement suspending the withdrawal in the situation of the complex political struggle inside Lithuania poured oil on the flames of the right-wing parties' confrontation with the left-wing ones which acceded to power as a result of the seimas elections and with "their" president. In fact, the main causes of the latest failure to sign the important agreement lie within Lithuania's domestic politics.

Russia needs the agreement because it is necessary to make the process legal and to create social guarantees for the ex-servicemen and military pensioners remaining in Lithuania. Lithuania does not have a great need for it, for the withdrawal has virtually taken place, and the statement by the republic's Foreign Ministry about Russian pressure on the country in connection with the decision to suspend the withdrawal also appears a purely political step, as well as, incidentally, the actions of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

On the other hand, Lithuania is now getting an opportunity to try to influence the Russian side's position in one way or another. If the republic does need the agreement, it is only in the sense that it will be possible with its help to wrest more convenient terms of an accord for itself from its eastern neighbor. The chief obstacle in the way of a compromise is the issue of the damage caused to Lithuania by the Soviet Army since 1940, which it is trying to claim from Russia. These claims are unacceptable to the latter, and in any case it does not deem it possible to link this problem to the question of the troops' withdrawal from Lithuanian territory.

But it is not so much economic motives that lie at the bottom of this categorical demand by Lithuania. President A. Brazauskas is in a kind of political trap. He cannot cancel this demand for damage compensation, since he is under very strong pressure from opposition movements, and the people's will also cannot be disregarded. But there is no way the Russian side can agree to such a formulation of the question. In principle there was the likelihood of some compromise at a personal meeting between Brazauskas and President Boris Yeltsin, to which the Lithuanian president alluded

before his expected 23 August trip to Moscow, but the position of the delegation at talks with Russia did not make it possible to utilize that opportunity. He said this in his Sunday speech to television viewers.

The trip to Moscow also had to be postponed for several other reasons. Only the Democratic Labor Party supported the idea of the visit, while eight opposition parties came out against it. In addition, the date had not been chosen very felicitously, since 23 August is the anniversary of the sadly well-known Ribbentrop-Molotov pact. Opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis did not fail to take advantage of this and drew attention to the symbolic nature of Brazauskas' probable trip to Lithuania [as published], thereby alluding to the likelihood of a "compact."

The atmosphere of suspicion on the part of the opposition parties and movements is characteristic of the situation which has taken shape. Moscow is still being accused of imperial ambitions. Full use is being made of the decision to suspend the withdrawal, which had almost taken place, for a further propaganda campaign, which the Lithuanian president also cannot ignore in his activity. A big opposition rally organized by the conservatives' party was held outside the Seimas building Sunday. On Monday measures were conducted throughout Lithuania to commemorate the pact which was tragic for the Baltic—measures overshadowed by the same suspiciousness toward the eastern neighbor.

A situation of fanning passions is characteristic of right-wing movements in their struggle for power. They cannot tolerate the fact that "former communists" are at the helm of state management, and full use is being made of the decision to suspend the Russian troop withdrawal in the internal political struggle: Once again there is an external enemy. Maybe it is no coincidence that the appearance of an internal enemy has also been announced. The leaders of right-wing movements have recently begun loudly sounding the alarm over the separatist movements which have supposedly arisen in the Polish-speaking region around Vilnius. Appeals are being made for the need to annul the registration of the union of Poles, and there are doubts about the legality of its actions.

The possibility cannot be ruled out that the fanning of passions against the background of a not very simple economic situation is one of the stages of the election campaign which is due in the future and which certain right-wing leaders would very much like to bring nearer. They must also enhance their political authority: A recent poll conducted by leading sociologists for the newspaper RESPUBLIKA showed that at present Brazauskas has more supporters than opponents. But the authority of V. Landsbergis is falling, and the number of his opponents is already greater than the number of supporters of his policy.

Brazauskas is still not losing hope that compromises will be reached between Lithuania and Russia. He is not abandoning the demand for damage compensation, but he draws attention to the fact that the way the damage must be made good and the size of the compensation are another matter. Some experts name a figure of... $146 billion. The Lithuanian president believes that maybe some third side, an international organization, should participate in the signing of the agreement. In his interview he urged Lithuania's inhabitants to behave calmly. He warned that it is necessary to prevent provocations with regard to servicemen and citizens of Russia....

Moscow Calls on Warring Sides in Bosnia To Accept Maps

LD2508040993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2355 GMT 24 Aug 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Moscow, August 24 (TANJUG)—Russia on Tuesday [24 August] again called on the warring sides in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to accept the proposed maps for a future union of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Russia's leadership called on all sides in Bosnia to agree with the difficult but vitally important compromise, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin.

He told a press conference in Moscow that the Geneva peace talks on Bosnia had come to a point where decisions were practically being made on peace or a continuation of war.

"The United Nations must give a clear signal (to the warring sides) stimulating a reconciliation," he said.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Interviewed

PM2508104593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Aug 93 pp 1,6

[Interview with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic by special correspondent Vasiliy Zhuravskiy in Belgrade, date not given: "Blockade on Yugoslavia Must Be Lifted. PRAVDA Special Correspondent Vasiliy Zhuravskiy Interview With Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic"]

[Text] [Zhuravskiy] What is your opinion of Yugoslavia's position amid the rigorous sanctions?

[Jovanovic] Yugoslavia is in a very grave position. This is primarily linked with the fact that it has been subjected to unjust unilateral international sanctions and is still deemed the country that is allegedly to blame for the outbreak of civil, ethnic, and religious war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Yugoslavia is however not to blame for this war. That is already clear to everyone today. A civil war is under way here and it is primarily Germany, the EC, the United States, and other countries that rushed to recognize Bosnia-Herzegovina that bear responsibility for its being unleashed.

The following question is a logical one: What do they want to achieve by retaining these unjust, inhuman sanctions against Yugoslavia?

And another question: Were the sanctions introduced in connection with the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina or as a result of an extensive, organized, exaggerated international slander campaign against Yugoslavia, a campaign that has other goals both in Yugoslavia itself and in the Balkans?

The answer to this must come not only from us here in Yugoslavia, but also from a number of other countries since these questions are directly connected with human rights. If the aim was to wipe Yugoslavia off the face of the earth and prevent the country from standing firm even within the current borders of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY] one wonders what the next step will be for those trying to achieve this? Where will their greed stop? As you know, Germany and, regrettably, the EC, which supports it, as well as the United States, Turkey, the satellite countries, Austria, Albania, and the republics of the former Yugoslavia, are behind the "theory" that Yugoslavia does not and cannot exist.

If Yugoslavia should not exist, that is no more than part of a broader strategic plan to break up certain countries and destroy the system of peace treaties in Europe in order to establish a new order whereby other states will dominate the world. If this plan comes to fruition in the Balkans,, ambitions of this kind will most likely be directed to other countries that stand in the way of a new system of dominant influences being established.

Yugoslavia is totally hermetically isolated and many countries brag about causing that isolation. There is not in effect a tremendous difference between hermetic isolation and the gas chamber. Whether people die from being asphyxiated by gas or from starvation and lack of medicine in a closed country, the result is the same—death. The international community bears tremendous moral liability for its policy of punishing a totally innocent population.

[Zhuravskiy] Of which international organizations is Yugoslavia still a member where it is developing its activity and what are its current relations with the United Nations, the CSCE, and the Nonaligned Movement?

[Jovanovic] Yugoslavia has not been expelled from a single international organization, but it has in practice been deprived of a chance to work actively in them. As for the United Nations, Yugoslavia was formally expelled from the UN General Assembly for a year and this period has now been extended. Its activity in the CSCE has been limited. And the nonaligned countries under severe pressure from Germany, the United States, and Islamic countries have decided to limit Yugoslavia's participation in the activity of the Nonaligned Movement. That is particularly unfair since, as you know, Yugoslavia is one of this movement's founder countries and has put so much financial, political, and moral effort into liberating a number of the movement's member countries from colonial servitude and into asserting their autonomy and sovereignty as regards those who plundered them and kept them in a position of total dependence.

[Zhuravskiy] How do you view certain Montenegrin diplomats' statements about resolving Yugoslavia's problems?

[Jovanovic] As one of the two republics in Yugoslavia, Montenegro has ended up in an even graver economic position, it has been more severely affected by the sanctions than Serbia. That is evidently the reason why it is more irritable about the situation that has developed and is less patient as it awaits the lifting of the sanctions. Thus certain hasty, if not to say disharmonious, statements about federation policy must be understood and interpreted with that in mind. They by no means affect Yugoslavia's unified foreign policy. By cooperating closely both our fraternal republics are capable of escaping from the difficulties together and are ready to build a federation together.

[Zhuravskiy] There is the opinion that Yugoslav diplomacy is on the defensive, unlike in the past. Might a diplomatic offensive speed up the lifting of international sanctions on Yugoslavia?

[Jovanovic] No, we are not on the diplomatic defensive, on the contrary, we are engaged in an extremely vigorous offensive, however, the forms of our activity are dictated by the present situation. We have been robbed of a chance of having normal political contacts with other countries owing to our political isolation and the pressure from leading Western states upon other countries. We are nevertheless in contact with many countries and international organizations, doing everything we can to inform the world public of the true state of affairs and thus help lift the sanctions.

What is more, we also have political contacts with a number of countries: Here I would cite Russia, Greece, Romania, Hungary, Italy, and France. And we are to visit India, China, Syria, and other countries. So those who would like to see Yugoslavia on its knees are deluding themselves. I would say further that a major breach in our isolation is beginning both politically and psychologically. The truth about the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina has after all become obvious: Everyone is now aware that this is a civil war and not a war that Yugoslavia unleashed.

[Zhuravskiy] At one time even in official statements, primarily by diplomats, Russia was accused of betraying the interests of the fraternal Serbian people. What is your opinion of Russia's current role in resolving the Yugoslav crisis?

[Jovanovic] Russia is one of the closest countries to us. We realize that the objective situation in which Russia now finds itself does not enable it to do more and be more resolute and consistent in helping to make the world public aware of the whole truth about Yugoslavia.

That is how we explain Russia's inadequate support for our position in the Security Council. It is indeed hard for Russia to do more here than it has already done and is doing in the international context. We would naturally like Russia to do more, we would like it to defend the truth, by offering us support, and also to thus strategically defend its own positions and interests. But reality objectively limits Russia's opportunities to do what it would like to do for us at present. I repeat, we understand this, while at the same time expecting Russia to act more energetically and successfully in fighting for the sanctions to be lifted. It goes without saying that this should be closely linked with the establishment of peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Zhuravskiy] There is awareness of the acute diplomatic debate between Yugoslavia and the international community over the question of the succession between the FRY and the former SFRY...

[Jovanovic] The question of the Yugoslav succession is coming up against a desire in certain countries—the new centers of power in Europe—to wipe Yugoslavia off the world political map. The rest is just a cover, a fairytale for the public at large. The fact is that the EC, doing Germany's bidding, wanted to predetermine Yugoslavia's fate with the so-called Badinter commission, which declared Yugoslavia a dead, nonexistent country, coaxed the former Yugoslav republics to demand independence, to get into line before the EC, and to fulfill the conditions for their independence to be recognized. There was a clash here between, on the one hand, some Yugoslav republics' desire to break away from Yugoslavia and form independent states and, on the other, the wishes of two peoples and two republics to remain loyal to Yugoslavia and continue their joint life on the remaining territory. The wishes of the two republics and two peoples—the Serbs and Montenegrins—were utterly ignored. They were asked to be disloyal to their own country and seek approval to live in some new independent country. We could not and will not agree to this and that was what caused the dispute [illegible] the problem of the succession to the SFRY. We have all the historical, legal, moral, and political grounds and arguments to uphold our positions. They have just one argument—the argument of force and they are imposing their interests on Yugoslavia in crisis from a position of strength. However, with the resolution of the Yugoslav crisis the question of succession, which is in effect an artificial one, should be taken off the agenda and settled along with all aspects of the Yugoslav crisis.

[Zhuravskiy] Of late President Clinton and his administration have been subjecting Serbia's position in the Yugoslav crisis to very tough criticism. Don't you think that the diplomatic relations between the FRY and the United States are at their lowest level in the entire history of diplomatic relations between the two countries? And another point: Did you believe, Mr. Minister, that the Americans could undertake military actions against the Serbs in Bosnia and do so, moreover, without Russia's consent?

[Jovanovic] Our relations with the United States are indeed at their lowest level in the entire history of diplomatic relations between our countries. And that is the U.S. side's decision—it it not what we want—it is linked with the ridiculous idea espoused by President Bush's administration that Yugoslavia has ceased to exist. Despite this we are trying to persuade the United States that Yugoslavia, the Serbian and Montenegrin peoples are not its enemies. We have always been allies, we were allies in two world wars and there are no grounds for treating us differently from before. However, the United States, under German influence and probably on the basis of it own interests in the Islamic world, is insisting on condemning Yugoslavia and the Serbian people out of hand for everything that has happened in Yugoslavia.

As for U.S. military intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina, that was always a tactical threat and form of political pressure, rarely a real danger. It is hard to believe that such a great and highly experienced country as the United States would decide to wage war for someone else, be it Izetbegovic or Germany, Turkey, or the Islamic fundamentalists. The United States has no vital interests in Bosnia, it has said that publicly, and U.S. public opinion could not support a very risky step that would threaten not only stability in this part of the world, but would also have financial repercussions on the position of President Clinton himself. Therefore heightened U.S. activity in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the increase in the anti-Serb lobby are the result, on the one hand, of varying viewpoints and, on the other, of President Clinton's difficulties in the United States itself. Under these conditions President Clinton is being forced to skillfully maneuver and create an impression of strength and determination. It is in effect a question of the United States simply being unready to be embroiled in a military operation that would complicate still further its already grave budgetary situation.

In conclusion I would like to say that the aggression perpetrated against Yugoslavia, which has taken political, propaganda, and psychological forms unlike the military aggression in World Wars I and II, aims, by deepening the Yugoslav crisis and dismembering the country, to contest the existing system of peace treaties, created in Europe based on the results of World Wars I and II. It is important to set a precedent and start the destruction of this system—Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia... Who is next?

Turkey's Cetin on Bosnia, Caucasus, Bilateral Relations

PM2408104793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Aug 93 p 5

[Interview with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin by Dmitriy Kulik; place and date not given: "We Turks Are Concerned About Everything. Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin Has Been on an Official Visit to Russia"]

[Text] The arrival of Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin in Russia attracted the attention of all European and Central Asian countries. For not just Russian-Turkish relations but also the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and, in particular, the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina were discussed in the talks.

[Kulik] At its session in Pakistan the Islamic Conference Organization adopted a decision to galvanize its activity in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Your visit to Russia is one of the stages in this work. Some people are even calling the meeting of the foreign ministers of Turkey and Russia a key meeting in the settlement of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. What was discussed in the talks with A. Kozyrev? What is Turkey's position with regard to the Balkan crisis?

[Cetin] My visit to Russia really is one of the stages of our activity in settling the situation in the former Yugoslavia. I plan to visit the capitals of all the member countries of the UN Security Council. We take the same stand as Islamic states. Turkey believes that Bosnia and Herzegovina must preserve its territorial integrity, independence, and UN membership. From our viewpoint, Sarajevo is the capital of a unified state. The partitioning of this city will result in the emergence of a "new Berlin" on the European map.

Talks between the warring sides can take place only under peaceful conditions, when the guns have fallen silent and humanitarian aid has started to reach Muslim regions unhindered. If this does not happen, one way out is left—intervention by NATO forces.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina it is the Muslim population that is suffering above all. More than 200,000 people have died during the war. As an Islamic state, we cannot remain on the sidelines.

As previously, Turkey is demanding the lifting of the embargo on deliveries of military hardware to the Muslims. "Either take weapons from the enemy, or give them to us"—this is what Bosnian Muslims think. The correlation of forces there now is one to 15 in favor of the Serbs and Croats.

[Kulik] After Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus signed the declaration on economic integration and the creation of a customs union and common market among these states, Vice Premier Shokhin declared that the Central Asian republics of the former USSR must choose between membership of the Union of three Slav countries and the Economic Cooperation Organization, of which Turkey is a member. What do you think about this?

[Cetin] I do not consider this a correct stand. Membership of one union cannot serve as an obstacle to participation in another model of cooperation. Turkey, for example, while a member of the European Community [as published; Turkey is an associate member of the European ECONOMIC Community], also belongs to the Islamic Conference Organization, the Economic Cooperation Organization, and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation [organization]. Russia and Ukraine, as well as certain other CIS states, are countries with which Turkey attaches great significance within the framework of Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

[Kulik] As is known, economic contacts between Russia and Turkey are at a high level. What can you say about ties in the military sphere? For Russian military people have recently taken to visiting your country.

[Cetin] Cooperation in the economic sphere really is developing actively. The visit to Turkey by the Russian president and prime minister, which is being scheduled, can promote further progress on this issue. The Turkish premier will also most likely visit Moscow in September.

We have discussed with Mr. Kozyrev the question of constructing a giant pipeline which is to cross the territory of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, and Turkey. From our viewpoint, this is the most reliable and safe way to deliver fuel. The straits can now ensure the transportation of only 70-100 million tonnes a year—which is very little. Particularly as Russia is now trying to use the Black Sea more actively than the Baltic because of the loss of many ports. The project is valued at $2 billion.

As regards military cooperation, it is at a new level at present. At the time of the meeting between our former premier, now President Demirel, and the Russian leadership it was decided to establish ties in the defense sphere. Turkey declared that it intended to buy military hardware from Russia, and the first deal has already been struck. A contract worth $75 million has been signed for the supply of armored vehicles and helicopters.

[Kulik] One subject of the talks with the Russian foreign minister was the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. Turkey has historically played a large role in that region. What is its stand on the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia now?

[Cetin] Azerbaijan is historically linked with Turkey, and our peoples are related. Armenia is a neighbor. Therefore Ankara is making efforts to establish peace between the two countries. We are, however, opposed to the seizure of one side's territory by the other by military means. The Armenians must understand this policy well. We are making efforts to continue the dialogue with Armenia, although the Armenian side ignores all peace initiatives. The aggressor must not be encouraged. If the offensive upon Azerbaijani territory continues in the future, Armenia will receive a proper rebuff.

[Kulik] Are there any differences in the approaches of Russia and Turkey to the Karabakh conflict?

[Cetin] There are no differences in the aims and principles. As regards the crux of the matter, from our viewpoint Nagorno-Karabakh is a part of Azerbaijani territory. After the cessation of hostilities its status can be determined in peace talks.

Roundtable on Abkhazia Held in Moscow

LD2408220693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1651 GMT 24 Aug 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Gvritishvili]

[Text] Moscow August 24 TASS—A roundtable meeting with the theme "Abkhazia: a look into future, world without war" was held here today by Abkhazian, North Caucasian, Russian and Georgian public figures, politicians, scientists, political scientists, and correspondents.

The meeting was held on the initiative of the Moscow Abkhazian Culture Society and the Federation of Peace and Concord.

Abkhazian plenipotentiary in Moscow Igor Akhba put all the responsibility for war in Abkhazia on "the Georgian leaders headed by Eduard Shevardnadze". Representatives of the Moscow Georgian community left the meeting in protest.

Russian, Moldovan Premiers Satisfied With Talks

LD2408181893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1716 GMT 24 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow Aug 24 TASS—Russian and Moldavan Premiers Viktor Chernomyrdin and Andrey Sangeliy expressed complete satisfaction with the results of bilateral negotiations. They were addressing journalists after the end of the talks here today.

Premiers agreed that the negotiations which covered a broad range of economic issues were marked by mutual understanding. The Russian premier emphasized that "Moldova is one of the states which behave properly in payments for deliveries".

Andrey Sangeliy declared for Moldova's participation in the economic union within the Comonwealth and reaffirmed its leadership's intention to take part in the CIS summit planned for September in Moscow.

U.S. Accused of Exacerbating Moscow-Kiev Dispute

PM2508102193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Aug 93 p 3

[Manki Ponomarev "Observer's Opinion" article: "Moscow-Kiev Clash. This Seems To Be Washington's Persistently Pursued Aim"]

[Text] Washington does not tire of repeating that it was the United States which won a decisive victory in the "cold war." But this is most probably aimed at public opinion. What is actually happening is that it also wants to consolidate the victory it thinks it has gained—to consolidate it by the final breakdown of what was once the Soviet Union.

A great variety of means are being used to achieve this most desired of aims. Incidents of unconcealed speculation, not to say provocation, figure prominently among them. One reason for them was official Kiev's rather vague stance on the question of the nuclear arms situated on Ukrainian territory.

Let me remind readers that, following the USSR's collapse, the arms that remained there were 130 RS-18 silo-launched ICBM's (SS-19s in NATO terminology) with six nuclear warheads each, 46 RS-22 ICBM's (SS-24s) which are also silo-launched and carry 10 warheads each, and 43 TU-160 and TU-95MS strategic bombers equipped to carry nuclear bombs and missiles. There are 1,880 weapons in total. This has put Ukraine in third place among all the nuclear powers in terms of of strategic weapons and their delivery systems.

A protocol was signed in Lisbon in May last year, in accordance with which Ukraine, like Belarus and Kazakhstan, pledged to ratify the START I Treaty, to give up in their entirety the former USSR's nuclear weapons which have remained on its territory, and to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear state. But more than a year has passed since then and, as far as Kiev is concerned, the ball has not started rolling yet.

This is a serious problem. But there is every reason to think that sooner or later it will be resolved. There have been promising signs recently to back up this statement.

But certain forces in the United States would not be averse to aggravating the problem instead of settling it, so that, by exacerbating it, they could fragment the independent states which have emerged from the ruins of the USSR, drive a wedge between them, and pit them against each other. This would apply primarily to the most powerful and important among them—Russia and Ukraine.

We will not, of course, find any statements from representatives of the Washington administration on this topic. But from time to time articles appear in the pages of the U.S. press which directly serve the cause of attaining this aim. Evidence of this is provided, for example, by articles which appeared in the latest issue of the journal FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Let me remind readers that FOREIGN AFFAIRS is an elite and very influential foreign policy journal published by the U.S. Council for International Affairs. People pay attention to what it says, and sometimes the White House and the Department of State express their innermost views on various important issues in it. The author of the article on which we will concentrate here is John Mirsheymer [surname as transliterated], professor of political sciences at Chicago University.

At first glance Mirsheymer has dedicated his article to proving a thesis which is at heart unprovable: "It is a mistake to put pressure on Ukraine so that it becomes a non-nuclear state." But only at first glance. A closer examination of the author's argumentation makes it

clear that his main objective is to frighten Kiev with the "Russian threat," to set the Ukrainian and Russian peoples against each other using all possible means, and to stir things up between them.

How else can you interpret the complaints that Ukraine will be unable to form an army "strong enough to halt a Russian attack" and contain "Russian aggression?" For this reason, he says, Kiev cannot under any circumstances give up nuclear weapons, which "represent a powerful force for peace because they are weapons of mass destruction(!)" For "an aggressive Russia could not fail to take into account the nuclear threat from Ukraine." Hence the direct recommendation for Kiev to keep its nuclear weapons "irrespective of what other states may say or do." And so on, and so forth.

All this is followed by the conclusion that "Russian-Ukrainian relations will probably deteriorate in the future." This "forecast," if I might use this expression, is based on the argument that Ukraine's decision (as proposed by the author) to keep its nuclear weapons "may enrage and put on edge the Russians who do not want Ukraine to have them." "This would prompt Russia to pursue a more aggressive foreign policy, thus increasing the chances of a preventive war."

And the United States can only gain from all this as it, supposedly, "will hardly be subjected to a nuclear strike in the event of a Russian-Ukrainian nuclear exchange." Therefore, it is necessary do everything (but quietly, according to Mirsheymer's proviso) to encourage Ukraine in its aspiration to preserve its nuclear potential.

At whom is the author aiming these cynical designs, to whom is he addressing them?

First, at his own U.S. leadership: Take advantage of the circumstances, he is saying, do not put pressure Kiev to ratify the START I Treaty quickly and become a nonnuclear power. It still will not pose any danger to the United States, and a future rift with Moscow will become inevitable.

Second, at Ukraine, especially at local nationalists: Be on your guard, do not give up your nuclear missiles, otherwise you will again fall under the Kremlin's power. In general be prepared for resistance—the Russians are coming.

Third, at Moscow: Look, perfidious Kiev does not want to part with its nuclear arms. It has an ulterior motive. Is it not time to switch from warning statements to preventive actions using force directly?

These are the outlines of the "foreign policy program" for whose publication FOREIGN AFFAIRS made many of its pages available.

Let me remind readers that, soon after the end of World War II, this very journal published an article signed "X" which, together with Winston Churchill's speech in Fulton, became the formal declaration of the "cold war." It became known later that the person behind the mysterious pseudonym was U.S. diplomat George Kennan.

John Mirsheymer did not hide behind a pseudonym. And why should he? After all, he is not alone. Another writer in the same issue of FOREIGN AFFAIRS—Stephen Miller—argues about the possibility of Russian-Ukrainian confrontation, crisis, and even armed conflict. It is evident that this approach toward relations between Moscow and Kiev (and it is becoming more and more widespread) already impresses some people across the ocean very much indeed. To say the least, nothing has been heard about any rebuttals by official circles.

That which is being discussed with increasing frequency and persistence in Washington is being directly echoed among extreme nationalist circles across the former USSR. Especially among Ukrainian circles which openly proclaim: "Alliance even with the devil, but not with Russia!"

It can only be hoped that the U.S. provocations will not leave the anticipated impressions on Moscow and Kiev. And that, on the contrary, they will inspire people not to provide any unnecessary reason for the two neighbors, which have been linked historically by close ties through the centuries, to quarrel among themselves.

Chernomyrdin, Belarus Leader Stress Economic Ties

LD2408183993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Video report by correspondent L. Panova, including recording of remarks by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Belarusian Premier Vyacheslav Kebich; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin met Belarusian Premier Vyacheslav Kebich in Moscow today.

[Panova] At the center of attention at this working meeting were problems of the restoration of economic ties which had been lost. The participants were unanimous in their opinion on the necessity of an early economic alliance, for the signing of which the CIS heads of state will be meeting in Moscow on 7 September. As the heads of the Russian and Belarusian governments stressed, today's meeting was of a principled nature precisely in relation to the setting up of an economic alliance of the CIS countries.

[Chernomyrdin] We need an economic alliance—Russia needs it and I believe that all the others need it, too.

[Panova] During today's meeting the sides also discussed a number of other issues of economic cooperation, certain aspects of the fulfillment of previous agreements, problems of mutual payments, credits and, in particular, the problem of energy carriers and gas.

[Kebich] Recently Belarus has made many efforts to make these payments. In the course of literally three days we have been able to pay 25 billion rubles for gas. This is a very big sum for three days. I am happy with the results of my visit.

Commander Claims Tajik, Afghan Rebels Planning Attacks

LD2408190293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1524 GMT 24 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow August 24 TASS—"The Russian border troops command has reliable information on an action prepared by Tajik opposition militants and Afghan mujaheddin to seize and destroy a number of border posts of the Moscow, Pyandzh and Khorog units.

"Concentration of militants from the Islamic Revival Party and Afghan mujaheddin is reported from the adjoining area, arms and ammunition are being delivered there," says a statement of Russian border troops commander Colonel-General Andrey Nikolayev.

"The Russian border troops command is closely watching the developments in these sections of the border and in cooperation with corresponding Tajik structures takes measures to ensure the safety of servicemen and prevent armed invasion of republican territory.

"The responsibility for possible armed provocations and their consequences will rest on forces striving to break the beginning political settlement on the Tajik-Afghan border," says the document.

Grachev Interviewed on Tajik-Afghan Border Situation

LD2508103893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0330 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] During a two-day session of the Council of CIS Defense Ministers, particular attention was given to the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and to measures aimed at normalizing it. Our correspondent asked Army General Pavel Grachev, Russia's defense minister, to answer a few questions connected with this problem. In particular, is there any chance of starting a dialogue with the Afghan side, including the military leadership, on normalizing the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

[Begin Grachev recording] The fact is, I know Afghanistan well, because I fought there for five years. The leadership, headed by Rabbani, Ahmad Shah, and other leaders of the former opposition against whom we once fought, is prepared to enter into political dialogue. However, from what we know about the present political, geographical [as heard], and economic conditions in Afghanistan, it is unlikely that the central leadership can influence the situation in the north of Afghanistan.

The fact is that there are no communications and no coordination in the actions of leaders and field commanders of military formations in Afghanistan. Therefore, even if the central leadership in Afghanistan is deeply committed to solving the problem by political means, it will be extremely difficult to attain the final result in practical terms. Here we count on the leader of the so-called northern provinces of Afghanistan, General Dustom, who is more or less in control of the situation in the north of Afghanistan. So if we enter into closer contact with him, provided, naturally, this is in line with the wishes of Afghanistan's central leadership, it will be possible to settle the issue by political means. However, it will certainly be very difficult. [end recording]

[Announcer] Assessing Russia's role in settling the present conflict, Pavel Grachev noted:

[Begin Grachev recording] I have to say that Russia does not aim at achieving a breakthrough in the situation in Tajikistan by military means. Above all, we count on political dialogue, on political settlement through the channels of Russia's Foreign Ministry. By no means do we disregard other states, especially those that are members of the collective security system, and there are six such states.

Neither do we deny our partial military presence, which aims primarily to coordinate the provision of assistance to the border troops. After all, it is no secret that the border section in Tajikistan is no longer the border we had before. At present, the need is not just to protect the border, but to defend it. Therefore the presence of Russian troops there is necessary. We have established our strike group on the basis of the 201st Division.

I have been charged with providing overall coordination of all military units on the territory of Tajikistan, and I will do it. [end recording]

[Announcer] That was Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

Shokhin Talks in South Korea Summarized

LD2408191793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1522 GMT 24 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul August 24 TASS—Russia and South Korea will continue close bilateral consultations at various levels to solve a broad range of political and economic problems. Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin, South Korean President Kim Yong-sam, Vice-Premier and Minister of Economic Planning Yi Kyong-sik and Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said here today.

The Russian vice-premier tried to convince the South Korean part of the need to postpone or make easy-term the payment of Russian debt on credits partially granted by South Korea to the former Soviet Union. The remaining part of the credits has been frozen till the time

the Russian Federation as the successor of the former Soviet Union pays off its debts.

At the same time, Shokhin offered mutually-beneficial military-technical exchange, which is hampered by political obstacles for Seoul.

"None is able to answer this question now before consultations with South Korean allies, but we think it could boost the solution of other problems, including payment of the Russian debt," Shokhin told ITAR-TASS. It is not clear whether Seoul is ready to accept proposals on military-technical cooperation, bearing in mind close South Korean-U.S. relations in this sphere.

"However, all the questions could be settled with a compromise," believes Shokhin. A meeting of the Russian-South Korean Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, whose Russian side is headed by Shokhin, will be held before the end of this year to take decisions on issues currently analyzed by Russian and South Korean experts.

The vice-premier reminded Kim Yong-sam of an invitation to visit Moscow conveyed on behalf of Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The South Korean leader said he intends to visit Russia next year.

DPRK Workers Reported Removing Uranium Ore

LD2408221993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2013 GMT 24 Aug 93

[from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The authorities of Khabarovsk Kray stated today that they intend to review the activity of North Korean procurement workers on their territory. They said that this activity cannot continue in its present form. Reports have already appeared that North Korean workers have secretly removed uranium ore together with timber from Russian territory. The Khabarovsk authorities have more than once expressed dissatisfaction with the conduct of these workers.

Japanese Eye Russian Naval Presence in South China Sea

LD2408185893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1454 GMT 24 Aug 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Varlamov]

[Text] Tokyo August 24 TASS—Sending a combat ship of the Russian Pacific Fleet to the South China Sea, Russia not only protects its merchant vessels against pirates, but also shows military presence in a region where there is tension, Chiaki Hayashizaki, chief of staff of Japan's naval self-defence forces, said at a news conference in Tokyo on Tuesday.

Hayashizaki believes that Moscow used raids of unidentified armed ships on civilian vessels flying the Russian flag as the pretext to emphasise that it has not lost its positions and continues to play an active military role in affairs of the region. Moscow confirmed this by stationing the large anti-submarine ship Petropavlovsk equated with the cruiser class at the naval base in Camranh Harbour, Vietnam.

The anti-submarine ship is already in the South China Sea on a training run. In addition to training, it has the purpose to protect Russian merchant ships against pirates who have been behaving impudently of late.

Watanabe Reportedly Named Japanese Envoy to Russia

LD2508084093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0724 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo August 25 TASS—Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata decided to appoint Koji Watanabe, 59, as Japanese ambassador to Russia, the TOKYO SHIMBUN newspaper reports on Wednesday.

According to the newspaper, an official announcement about the appointment will be made after a planned visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Japan in mid-October.

Asked by ITAR-TASS about the newspaper's report, the Japanese Foreign Office replied that "it has no information about such plans".

Watanabe is to replace Sumio Edamura at this post, who has been heading the Japanese diplomatic mission in Moscow for over three years.

ITAR-TASS learnt at reliable sources that the ambassador's replacement will be evidently a result of the recent change of the administration in Japan where the seven-party alliance of neo- conservative and traditional opposition forces came to power after the 38-year rule by the Liberal Democratic Party.

Watanabe, a graduate from the prestigious Tokyo University, has been the Japanese ambassador to Italy since last January. Earlier, he held the post of Japanese deputy foreign minister.

The appointment of a diplomat of such a high rank as ambassador to Moscow, TOKYO SHIMBUN notes, "is obviously evidence that the Japanese Government attaches much importance to relations with Russia".

Sudan's Envoy Refutes Terrorism Charges

PM2408133593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Aug 93 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Andrew Makur, Sudanese ambassador to Russia, by Vladilen Baykov; place and date not given: "Sudan's Doors Are Open To Everyone. Interview With Ambassador"]

[Excerpts] The Washington administration recently included Sudan on the list of states that support terrorists. ABC-TV reported that the Sudanese Government is supposedly involved in preparing wide-ranging terrorist acts, planned in particular for U.S. territory.

During a conversation with PRAVDA's correspondent, Andrew Makur, Sudanese ambassador to Russia, said:

[Makur] Attacks aiming to discredit Sudan come from those who foster unkind feelings for our country. It is easy to make accusations, but the force of an accusation lies in the proof. Sudan's doors are open to everyone, even those who accuse Sudan of terrorism. Come and see for yourselves what is happening in our country. The republic's president and other top officials urge everyone who is making a song and dance about terrorism in Sudan to prove this publicly. So far no one has come up with a single piece of proof to corroborate these accusations. At the same time the more talk there is about Sudanese terrorism, the more terrorist acts are perpetrated against it in other countries. And we have proof of that.

Western countries, particularly the United States, have extensive opportunities to use the mass media in a campaign against us. Sudan does not have such an extensive mass media network to refute these accusations. We categorically reject the U.S. attacks and assert that Sudan has never engaged in and never supported terrorism. We reject terrorism as a means of resolving any political differences whatsoever.

[Baykov] The Western mass media are writing a great deal about the famine in southern Sudan. What is the situation like there now?

[Makur] The real situation is this: A civil war has been fought in the south of the country for a long time now. This war has brought the population a great deal of suffering and has of course caused some difficulties with the region's development. But Western propaganda claims that there is no food in the country are absolutely unfounded.

Over the last few years Sudan has supplied itself with food in full and has even exported food to other countries. We have enough agricultural produce. Last year alone grain surpluses totaled around 2 million tonnes.

The main problem has to do with difficulties involving the transportation of food from northern to southern parts of the country. And these difficulties are caused by military clashes between insurgent groupings. UN and U.S. representatives' efforts to supply the south with humanitarian aid have so far been unsuccessful. When the insurgents killed UN representatives, the Western mass media hushed this up since it was not in their interests to report it.

The government is ready to send foodstuffs to the south. At present it is calling on various organizations to assist in transporting the freight.

It is indicative that our government has expressed its readiness to send humanitarian aid to other African countries beset by famine. Sudan has provided international organizations operating in the country with almost 100,000 tonnes of food in order to help the population in the south. This proves that the talk of a famine in Sudan is just that—talk. [passage omitted]

[Baykov] What is your view of Sudanese-Russian relations? How do you see the future of these relations?

[Makur] Our relations are based on long-standing good traditions. They began to develop from the time that Sudan became independent. We previously had totally different ideologies, now we have much in common and have an interest in developing relations with Russia to the utmost, for the good of both countries. We are striving to stimulate and develop these relations.

Sudan and Russia also have much in common in the economic sphere since our countries are implementing a policy of economic liberalization. Sudan has elaborated a 10-year plan for economic development that paves the way for foreign investment. Sudan may cooperate with Russia in this area.

Politically we see Russia as a power that may play a great role on the African Continent and in the Third World as a whole. I think that our relations have an extremely promising future.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Nicaragua

LD2408150093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1421 GMT 24 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow August 24 TASS—"We proceed from a firm conviction that any unlawful activities hampering the government to normalize the situation in Nicaragua cannot but evoke condemnation and rebuff on the part of the international community," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing here today. He spoke in favour of the Nicaraguan president's appeal to the population to preserve civil peace.

"Moscow expresses hope that all forces involved in recent events and their leaders must show flexibility and a sense of responsibility for the fate of the country and take steps to find an effective settlement to the situation, because the only alternative to it is the disruption of the democratic process in Nicaragua," the spokesman said.

Transport Commission Chairman Briefs U.S. Delegation

LD2408222793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1720 GMT 24 Aug 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow Aug 24 TASS - A profound interest in bringing Russian legislation in line with international standards has been voiced by Aleksey Adrov, chairman of the Russian Parliament's Commission for Transportation, Communications, Information Management and Space. He was speaking during a meeting with a delegation from the U.S. Congress today.

He informed the guests that this year the Supreme Soviet is likely to adopt laws on transportation and traffic safety, a new air code and amendments to the law on "The road fund." A law on railway transport is being drafted too, but Adrov admitted the parliamentarians do not clearly understand "how railway transport can fit in a system of market relations."

Head of the U.S. Congress Delegation Norman Mineta, chairman of the committee for public works and transportation, pointed out the benefits of cooperation between lawmakers and invited Russian MPs to visit the United States to look into law-making technology.

Political Issues

*Yeltsin Discusses Confrontation With Parliament

93AE0562A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Aug 93 pp 1, 4

[Article by Nikolay Andreyev: "Yeltsin in Statements to AL-HAYAH: 'We Will Confront Parliament With Greater Determination and Approve a Constitution in Semi-Legal Form'"]

[Text] Moscow—In a statement to AL-HAYAH yesterday, President Boris Yeltsin affirmed his intention to approve a new constitution "in semi-legal form." He said he would take "more resolute" measures if the Russian parliament rejected his proposal to elect a new legislative body.

Yeltsin spoke to AL-HAYAH after distributing medals in the Kremlin to French space pioneers and a number of Russian citizens on the second anniversary of the failed coup against former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in August 1991.

Responding to a question about possibilities for approving the constitution and holding parliamentary elections this fall as promised, he said, "We hope to approve the constitution in "semi-legal form." He explained that legal experts are now searching for an appropriate formula. He said that the present Constitution contains no provision concerning the method of approving the new constitution. "We are building a new Russia," he added, "and so it is right for us to approve a new constitution."

He indicated that the new federation council is now being formed, agreement having been obtained from the republic and province presidents who presented the Congress of People's Deputies a proposal on the subject that was rejected at the time. He added that he would issue a decree forming the federation council, taking account of the suggestions of the presidents. It will become an upper body for the union assembly: "That is, it will not be an advisory body, but an upper body in the new parliament." He explained that the members of the council would not be elected, but would join the council by virtue of their position as representatives of elected and executive authorities in each of the 88 republic and provincial administrative units. In other words, their total number would be 176.

He held that the union assembly would be the body that would approve a new election law and constitution. He explained that when he spoke about the "semi-legal form," he meant the existence of "some cracks," but that "the new state cannot be based on bodies that were formed and elected during the period of Soviet authority."

Yuriy Chernichenko, head of the Peasants' Party, who was standing near the president, commented that no great constitution had ever been approved in legal form, but had come as "the fruit of an explosion." Yeltsin seconded the view and added that it was necessary to work with greater resolution. He expressed his hope that the idea of keeping their positions in addition to membership in the upper body of the new parliament would "entice" the heads of the elected and executive bodies in the administrative units.

He said there were many examples in the world of parliaments consisting of two bodies: one elected, the other "representative." Responding to a final question addressed to him by AL-HAYAH about the position of the present parliament on this proposal, the president said: "Rejection! But rejection is also a decision, and on its basis we can work with more resolution."

Minister Glazyev's Letter of Resignation Published

PM2408124393 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Aug 93 p 1

[Letter from S.Yu. Glazyev, former Russian foreign economic relations minister, to Prime Minister V.S. Chernomyrdin; date not given: "Mafiosi Attack Recalcitrant Minister"]

[Text] The editorial office has received the text of a letter from Foreign Economic Relations Minister S. Glazyev to Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin. In publishing it we hope that light will be shed on both the activity of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and the reasons for S. Glazyev's resignation.

Esteemed Viktor Stepanovich!

I have honestly done my duty as a member of the government and I am grateful to you for the support that you gave me in my work as minister of foreign economic relations. In six months we have virtually succeeded in completing the formation of a new system of state regulation of foreign economic activity and achieving a favorable change in the movement of foreign trade. However, my consistent policy of tightening control over the observance of legislation in foreign economic activity and reorganizing existing foreign trade structures with a view to restoring order, in particular in the sphere of military-technical cooperation and trade in raw materials, has of late begun to arouse fierce opposition not only among commercial structures but also representatives of a number of structures of authority. This opposition developed into overt persecution of myself and the ministry's leadership at precisely the moment that we embarked on the practical introduction of an automated export control system for strategically important raw material commodities and the reorganization of military-technical cooperation. The Control Directorate and the Commission chaired by Yu.Kh. Kalmykov, which began a campaign to discredit the activity of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations organized by V.F. Shumeyko with the participation of S.S. Sidorkov and V.A. Pivnyuk, were, regrettably, instrumental in this persecution. V.F. Shumeyko did not balk at violating accepted

government procedures, discrediting the country's foreign policy image, or flouting basic moral norms when trying to have me relieved of my post [dobivayas moyego osvobozhdeniya ot dolzhnosti].

I have already voiced my opinion of these organizations' activity in a letter to Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin. It is obvious to me that the true reason for the persecution against me is the struggle for power waged by mafia structures who sensed a threat to their interests in the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations' activity to restore order to foreign economic activity.

In the prevailing circumstances I see no chance of further implementing my policy of ensuring legality and law and order in foreign economic activity and I therefore ask you to accept my resignation.

[Signed] S.Yu. Glazyev

Chernomyrdin Urged Not To Accept Resignation

LD2408144493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] At an emergency session of the Council for Foreign Economic Policy today, its members expressed their great indignation at the cancellation of Sergey Glazyev's visit to African countries and addressed an open letter to the country's leaders with the request that the minister's resignation should not be accepted. Council members are inclined to think that one of the reasons for the unprecedented cancellation of the visit which the minister had already started was the decision of the collegium to place severe restrictions on special exporters of Russian oil products and non- ferrous metals which had been adopted the day before. Incidentally, Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Government, stated today that he would not be hasty to draw conclusions with regard to Sergey Glazyev's request to resign from his ministerial post, declaring that the statement was rather emotional in character. Replying to questions from journalists after his meeting with the Belarus prime minister, he reported that the question of satisfying that request would be resolved in the next few days and possibly tomorrow.

Former Press Minister Fedotov Explains Resignation

MK2408120093 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 24 Aug 93 p 1

["Exclusive" interview with Mikhail Fedotov, former Russian press minister, by Mikhail Gurevich on 20 August; place not given: "His Farewell Bow. Mikhail Fedotov Comments on Reasons for His Resignation for MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS"]

[Text] [Fedotov] The reason is fairly simple: On 18 August, understanding that the law on amendments to the media law drafted in parliament will stifle our press (including the TV and the papers) by the safest and the most vicious method, I staked the last thing I had—my resignation. I hoped that this would stop them.

[Gurevich] You thought that it would upset them if they would never see you again?

[Fedotov] I was known not as an extremist but as a moderate and law-abiding man, trying to do everything within the law. They understood that Poltoranin was breathing down my neck. Today (the conversation took place on Friday evening—M. G.) I once again reminded the Supreme Soviet about my resignation. They did not change their mind and rejected all the basic proposals of the president.... Lisin said that it was a political move. Yes, a political move, but once I have made it, I will see it through. I am a man of my word, if you like, a man of honor. I have fought throughout my life for freedom of expression in Russia. And now I will have either to implement this law and become the main censor in the country—I shall not do this—or not observe that law, which is also against my convictions.

[Gurevich] You have no doubts that the president will accept your resignation?

[Fedotov] I shall insist on it, because otherwise this would look like a cheap ploy on my part.

[Gurevich] ....And that Poltoranin will become minister? Recently much has been said about the fight for the ministerial position that has been going on inside the "double-headed Mikhail."

[Fedotov] There was no fighting on my part. On his part, yes. I had never been holding on to that chair, and I have said this.

[Gurevich] This is what Poltoranin is also saying. How did it come about that Mikhail Aleksandrovich has fallen out with Mikhail Nikiforovich? You used to be friends....

[Fedotov] It happens that even the best friends quarrel and then do not even shake hands. I cannot forgive Poltoranin for one phone call, when in a somewhat agitated state he told me such things that in the past would have called for a duel. I have never made any moves against Poltoranin; this is not my style; I am not malevolent and, unlike him, I do not organize conspiracies and banquets after conspiracies.

[Gurevich] What will become of the Federal Information Center?

[Fedotov] It will certainly die since it is illegitimate. Under the law, the president may not establish federal bodies of state administration, and the Federal Information Center is exactly such a body; it controls all TV companies and ITAR-TASS, and it was going not only to produce information but also to agitate and buy newspaper space to promote the reforms. Well, where is this buying of newspaper pages?

[Gurevich] How do you envision your future?

[Fedotov] I am a professor, a doctor of law. Today is my son's birthday and I have given him a present: I told him that as of now I shall spend more time at home and devote myself to his upbringing. There will be a job to do. And the main thing is that I am not leaving the ranks of supporters of reform, and I shall be doing everything to defend freedom of the press and democracy in Russia. [Fedotov ends]

[Gurevich] A man who accepts the post of press minister in a free Russia knows what he is doing. Mikhail Fedotov knew that for our parliamentarians the law is something like a napkin—if they do not like it, they can change it!—and in such conditions it is difficult to be law-abiding (likewise he could not help knowing that this long-standing friend Mikhail Poltoranin is often tough and uses rude language). He did not fight parliament in any other way. And so he resigns. And I cannot understand those who only yesterday prided themselves on their friendship with Fedotov and are now hurrying to spit in his wake.

It is sad that another row has occurred in the democratic camp. Very sad. Incidentally, Gogol's story about the quarrel between two gentlemen ends precisely with these words: "It is sad to live in this world, ladies and gentlemen." After the talk with Fedotov I felt extremely depressed.

Kalmykov Interviewed on Anticrime Commission's Revelations

PM2408131993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Aug 93 p 1

[Interview with Justice Minister Yuriy Kalmykov by ITAR-TASS observer Andrey Naryshkin under the "Week's Issues" rubric; place and date not given: "Is Anyone in Moscow Not a Thief? Justice Minister Yuriy Kalmykov Attempts To Answer This Question in an Exclusive Interview"]

[Text] [Naryshkin] Can you name the firms which sent funds to the currency account in Switzerland with which, in the opinion of the Interdepartmental Commission, Aleksandr Rutskoy is connected?

[Kalmykov] No, I cannot. But our commission has at least one document from which it can be seen that approximately U.S.$3 million was transferred to the account indicated by Rutskoy.

[Naryshkin] Is there any solid proof of the vice president's involvement in the illegal activity of the "Rebirth" Fund?

[Kalmykov] It is hard to say anything definite now, since we are not permitted to check the fund's materials.

[Naryshkin] Is there any connection between the fund and the General Prosecutor's Office?

[Kalmykov] The general prosecutor defends the interests of Khasbulatov and his entourage particularly staunchly, while "Rebirth" is the fund which was and is under the Supreme Soviet. The Interdepartmental Commission is denied access to it, despite the fact that the General Prosecutor's Office is working on it. In my view, it is covering up all the negative things that the press has said in connection with the fund's activity.

[Naryshkin] You have adopted a decision to raise with the Supreme Soviet the question of Valentin Stepankov's resignation. Do you believe that your arguments will be able to outweigh the support that the general prosecutor enjoys from the leadership of parliament?

[Kalmykov] I very much doubt that we will be able to achieve our goal. Although we have solid arguments. Parliament should have made Stepankov resign earlier, having the Supreme Court's ruling.

In addition, in the conversations Stepankov considered on several occasions the possibility of an attempt on the life of Commission Member Andrey Makarov. This is a serious charge—the line which the general prosecutor could on no account cross. The third circumstance is the state of the fight against crime in the country, for which the General Prosecutor's Office is chiefly responsible.

[Naryshkin] Can the record of Valentin Stepankov's telephone conversation with Dmitriy Yakubovskiy be regarded as material evidence?

[Kalmykov] Yes, of course. If Stepankov disagrees, he can demand an expert check and a court refutation.

[Naryshkin] Why, in your view, having informed Makarov that his life was in danger, did Yakubovskiy go against the general prosecutor, with whom a great deal links him?

[Kalmykov] It is hard to get to the bottom of the relationship between Stepankov and Yakubovskiy: Now they are friends, now they are enemies. Maybe this was a check on the way Stepankov would react to such proposals. In my view, Yakubovskiy is a farsighted and very cunning man. Maybe he wanted to "hook" Stepankov and test his reaction. For he carefully recorded all his talks with Stepankov and others, proposing to use them later against these same persons.

[Naryshkin] Who, apart from the officials you indicated at the news conference, is involved in the machinations of the Seabeco firm, and are there any grounds for assuming that people who hold a post above deputy minister are mixed up in the affair?

[Kalmykov] We have submitted to the president data concerning the leaders of two ministries.

[Naryshkin] Who specifically in parliament is hindering a check on Seabeco?

[Kalmykov] We are virtually being prevented from checking the materials concentrated in the Supreme Soviet building. However hard we seek access to the materials, we are told that they are at the Prosecutor's

Office, whereas the Prosecutor's Office maintains that they are at the Supreme Soviet.

[Naryshkin] Have members of the Interdepartmental Commission asked Ruslan Khasbulatov directly for access to Seabeco's documents?

[Kalmykov] We believe that it is sufficient for Control Administration Chief Aleksey Ilyushenko to ask for this, since he has the powers to do so.

[Naryshkin] It is difficult for a detached observer to rid himself of the feeling that members of the Interdepartmental Commission are prejudiced politically. You level serious charges at supporters of the Supreme Soviet and its speaker, ignoring the charges against Vladimir Shumeyko and Mikhail Poltoranin which feature in the pages of the press.

[Kalmykov] We have checked the actions associated with the charges against Shumeyko of making unscrupulous use of currency funds and are convinced that they are groundless. Unfortunately, Shumeyko signed the paper according to which Yakubovskiy was the government's plenipotentiary representative on law enforcement organs. I believe that this was a gross mistake. We have not run any checks on Poltoranin. Nobody has raised this question.

Kotenkov Comments on Corruption Investigation

LD2408201293 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0730 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] As you know, reaction to the news conference on the fight against crime and corruption came immediately. Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov was the first to respond and said on the very same day that he categorically objected to dismissing Valentin Stepankov, procurator general of the Russian Federation, from his post. Yesterday, on "Parliamentary Hour" on television, Aleksandr Rutskoy gave a long address and naturally denied all accusations against him. We have decided to return to this intriguing subject and have invited Aleksandr Alekseyevich Kotenkov, head of the Russian president's State Legal Administration, to speak. He is talking to our correspondent, Valeriy Shabanov.

[Begin recording] [Shabanov] Aleskandr Alekseyevich! At the recent news conference, which was immediately described as sensational, very serious accusations were made. Some time has passed since this but no additional facts have been made public. Intead of facts, there are only comments, various conjectures, and numerous rumors. Have there been no new circumstances regarding this matter?

[Kotenkov] First, it is really a bit too soon to be able to talk about about stunning new facts. I am not really in favor of creating a sensation in the press about what work the commission is doing. By the way, I would remind you that the commission has been on the go now for one and a half months, and for over a month it has been working in an atmosphere of total secrecy; and incidentally, in my opinion, this is when we have worked best. But the fact is that we have reached a point when we have been forced to unveil a little of the secret work of the commission, whether we like it or not.

What has made this necessary? The fact is that our work has indeed managed to get documents which confirm or at the very least give reason to suppose that a number of major officials of the Russian Federation have been involved in financial operations which were not entirely legal. The commission does not have the right to carry out investigative work—we are not a law enforcement body. The president has instructed us to examine documents which the commission possesses and to examine facts which have emerged, as far as possible.

So we examined these facts and the documents, and we say that an investigation must be further carried out so that a particular fact can be confirmed or rejected. However, among the documents and facts which we have there are some which give reason to distrust the procurator general. A little later I will comment on what is actually meant here. So what do you do in the present situation? You now have to hand over documents to the procuracy so that the procuracy, with or without criminal proceedings having been instigated, in accordance with the investigative measures, examines the conformity of these documents, and their authenticity, and examines the facts and gathers additional information. How can you hand over these materials to the procurator general if the personal interest of Procurator General Stepankov is being directly investigated in these materials?

Then, when we were at this very point, we were forced to stop and say, and to address the citizens and the Supreme Soviet, esteemed citizens, if we want to fight against corruption, and if we wish to bring order into the state, then we have to start bringing order into the law enforcement bodies; and incidentally, you may have noticed that the president's first steps in the fight against corruption were aimed precisely at cleansing the law enforcement ranks, from the top down, as it's called.

Unfortunately, the procuracy is not dependent on the president and here, apart from making public the facts which have emerged to us and appealing to the Supreme Soviet, we cannot do anything else. Yet we have direct reason to believe that Procurator General Stepankov is interested precisely in this affair. And we cannot hand over these documents to him.

[Shabanov] But look what happens. Vice President Rutskoy has also had rather fierce accusations against him. The procurator general has justified his actions which is perfectly natural, yet the Supreme Soviet is keeping quiet about it. The Moscow City Procuracy has been instructed to examine the affair but the city procurator, judging from publications in the press, is not rushing to deal with this and says that—his argument is such that the affair does not come under his remit at all.

[Kotenkov] This is not the case at all. The procurator of the City of Moscow was present at the session of the interdepartmental commission on Wednesday when this issue was discussed and agreed to examine these cases. Thus I don't see any contradictions here or that he is unwilling to examine it. So all these conversations about this president's commission allegedly concealing facts or waving all these papers on television which show nothing—and is accused of being the new Gdlyan commission—this is not the case at all. [end recording]

Crime Commission Official Describes Rutskoy Affair

LD2408220093

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1838 GMT on 24 August carries a 30-minute recorded interview with Andrey Mikhaylovich Makarov by commentator V. Perfilyev on the work of the interdepartmental commission on the fight against corruption, of which Makarov is a member. The interview was apparently recorded today at an unidentified location. Reception is good.

The two men are seen sitting next to each other at a table. The first question is: How did it come about that this criminal issue is now a political one?

Makarov says the struggle against corruption must proceed. He notes that he dislikes sensationalism and is sorry to see the highest echelons of power involved in corruption. He is also saddened, he says, to see that the facts relating to corruption are being used in a political struggle. For Rutskoy and the procuracy leadership, the fight against corruption has become just a means of attaining a political end, Makarov says.

Perfilyev says that normally a corruption story hits the headlines when an investigation has produced some preliminary results, with proof of some kind. In this case, however, the reverse is true: The story is public, but there is just a plethora of accusations, with no proof or documents in the public domain.

Makarov says that the aim is to secure political dividends. Rutskoy suddenly produced some documents in his TV interview. How did he get hold of material that was under investigation, without being a procuracy official?, he asks. Unfortunately, the procurator general is unable to ensure an objective investigation. Who is there to carry out an objective investigation? The interdepartmental commission therefore decided to hand the evidence over to the Moscow procuracy.

Makarov continues by noting that this is in accordance with the law. Most of the events referred to occurred in Moscow. It was, of course, possible that the documents would be lost in a fire, flood, or earthquake, he notes. Hence the news conference, which made everything public. This showed which people were involved in the web of corruption. One important fact is that none of the documents are new, and they were all just lying around "on the surface"; they were not hidden. Anyone really interested in fighting corruption could have acted on them at any time, Makarov points out.

Why didn't Rutskoy's interdepartmental commission look at these documents? Makarov points to a file of documents on the table and says he now intends to peruse them with viewers. Rutskoy's involvement in the Swiss bank account affair has been proven, Makarov says, as he sets out to demonstrate how a Swiss bank account is set up. He notes that there is a document, which viewers can see, authorizing the transfer of $13.5 million to Seabeco. Then $3 million is returned, not to the original account but to the account of "Trade Links Ltd.," which does not appear in any other documentation relating to the original deal, Makarov says. This is not the only such payment made to the account, he says.

Makarov then turns to another document, a trust contract drawn up in Toronto and dated 27 August 1991, just after the coup attempt. It looks like an ordinary contract, he says, and it transfers property from the trust to the Trade Links account. The contract was concluded between Aleksandr Rutskoy and a certain Benjamin Keret.

In response to a question on where the Revival Foundation fits into the story, Makarov says that in another document Rutskoy requests—which is usually taken to mean orders—that some way be found to transfer $20 million to a small firm called "Merrill Ltd.," which is owned by the now deceased Benjamin Keret, with whom Rutskoy had signed the trust contract. Further investigation is clearly called for here, Makarov says. Makarov then shows two more documents and explains the procedure through which there is an attempt to appropriate $36 million. Makarov explains the technicalities of the operation, the main point being that the documents are not normally seen together.

Makarov goes on to discuss the role of Dmitriy Yakubovskiy, director general of Seabeco. Yakubovskiy, he notes, denies all charges against him and has said that he wishes to testify against others involved in the case to establish the truth. But he refused to testify against Shumeyko and other government figures, Makarov says.

Makarov concludes by noting that all the commission's material relating to the cases under investigation was handed to the Moscow procuracy today, 24 August.

Filatov Chairs Conference on Federation Council

LD2408142793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 24 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A routine regional conference on the Federation Council was held in the Kremlin today, chaired by Sergey Filatov, head of the president's administration. He noted that the setting up of the Federation Council, a

consultative body with the heads of all Russia's republics, krays, oblasts, and autonomies represented, will help to take the heat out of the political situation in a number of rayons and get back to the most important thing, namely the economy. A council of heads of republics is already at work under the aegis of the president, but the heads of krays and oblasts will also be represented on the future Federation Council. The main task of the council is the implementation of the Federation Treaty at the local level.

During a break in the conference, Vyacheslav Volkov, deputy head of the president's administration, replying to journalists' questions, stressed that the setting up of the council was the initiative of the heads of republics of Russia themselves and that to date no republican leader had opposed such a council. But as for the heads of central bodies:

[Begin Volkov recording] Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov has a clearly negative stand but let me reiterate that this is by no means the stand of the Supreme Soviet. [end recording]

Documents concerning the Federation Council's activity will soon be submitted to parliament while the council itself is expected to begin work at the beginning of September.

Council Seen as President's Last Resort

MK2408134093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 24 Aug 93 p 3

[Dmitriy Olshanskiy report: "Regional Conference in the Kremlin. President's Fall Offensive: Petrozavodsk Becomes a Second Novo-Ogarevo"]

[Text] Preparations for setting up the Council of the Federation, which Boris Yeltsin promoted in Petrozavodsk, are proceeding in high gear. On Saturday, Sergey Filatov, chief of the presidential administration, and Deputy Supreme Soviet Chairman Nikolay Ryabov held a meeting of chiefs of representative and executive branches of the Federation components of Central-Chernozem, Central, and Volga-Vyatka regions of Russia, also attended by representatives from other regions; the meeting was resumed on Monday. Participants in the meeting enthusiastically supported the idea of setting up the Council of the Federation. To all appearances, this means that a presidential edict on the creation of the council is fairly likely to emerge as early as this week. In this event, Boris Yeltsin will in effect make a U-turn in his stance on the Council of the Federation: from completely rejecting the idea at the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies, to turning it into virtually one of his last weapons in his struggle with the parliament. At KOMMERSANT-DAILY's request, political scientist Dmitriy Olshanskiy, director of the Strategic Analysis and Forecasting Center, comments on the situation:

In Petrozavodsk, at a meeting of the Council of Heads of Russian Republics and Regions, Boris Yeltsin effectively admitted that he made a mistake in March, when on the regions' initiative a draft agreement on the Council of the Federation emerged at the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies. At that time, the president pointedly ignored it, and the speaker saw to it that the section calling for setting up the council of the congress' draft decree "On Urgent Measures To Maintain the Constitutional Order of the Russian Federation," already approved by an editorial commission, fell through in the voting; meanwhile, Yuriy Skokov, then Security Council secretary, who stood up for the initiative, lost his post soon thereafter.

Article 4 of the draft, however, had the following phrasing: "A draft Constitution of the Russian Federation, amendments and additions to the Russian Federation Constitution; draft laws on federal power and government authorities; decisions on early termination of the powers of the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation shall necessarily be approved by the Council of the Federation."

Evidently, it is for these purposes that the president needs the Council of the Federation now. First, it gives him a chance to overcome the constitutional deadlock: he can push through the Council of the Federation if not the entire constitution, then at least a "small" constitution—a Constitutional Law on Federal Authorities and Their Powers. Second, with the consent of the Council of the Federation—the proposed upper chamber of the new parliament—he can get rid of the current deputy corps. Third, all the contradictions between the branches of power can be resolved to the president's liking.

Of course, for some regions the situation is compounded by the fact that the council will make decisions by two-thirds of the votes, and in this event the republics within the Russian Federation will be clearly outnumbered by Russian-speaking krays and oblasts. To both of them, however, the idea of having an automatic representation in a new, regional parliament, that was adroitly presented by the president, looks too attractive.

As for the deputies' response, it is quite clear—the working procedure of the Council of the Federation is to "be determined by its rules of procedure," which are to be adopted by the council itself. Under the agreement, this status of the Council of the Federation is "to be set forth in the Russian Constitution," and can be amended with that same council's consent. So, the deputies cannot do anything about this, and they will have to approve it in order not to antagonize the regions.

The president expects to use the new body to keep the regions. The regions, for their part, count primarily on that same Novo- Ogarevo format X+1, put forward by Gorbachev, which actually brought about the unraveling of the USSR. At present, the format for the Council of the Federation is 89x2+1, where 89 is the number of components multiplied by two representatives from the

executive and legislative branches, and I stands for that same center and personally the president.

Nonetheless, a chance to resolve the crisis of power has been found: although to this end the president had to resort to what appears to be his last resort and, after acknowledging his mistake, to bet on the draft he ignored in March.

Economic & Other Issues

Chubays: Economic Recovery 'Blocked by Politicians'

LD2408173093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The Russian economy is faced with the danger that the financial stabilization that was attained by the middle of 1993 will disintegrate. This was stated by Anatoliy Chubays, deputy prime minister of the Russian Government, in his speech at the plenary session of the European Congress of the Association of Regional Science in Moscow. It is quite evident today that the possibility of economic recovery is being blocked by politicians, the deputy prime minister said. Unless elections are held, Russian reforms will simply choke. That will happen in the very near future.

Deputy Finance Minister Fedorov on Budget, Economy

MK2408104093 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 45, 24 Aug 93 (Signed to Press 23 Aug) p 11

[Interview with Boris Fedorov, Russian first vice premier and finance minister, by Aleksandr Bekker, in "Opinion" column; place and date not given: "Boris Fedorov: 'The Next Two Weeks Are the Time for a Political Choice'"]

[Excerpts] [Bekker] Recently Sergey Aleksashenko, your colleague in the "500 Days" team, was appointed deputy finance minister. Another newly appointed deputy minister is Andrey Kazmin, who has worked for Aganbegyan and whom you also know very well. Is this selection based on cronyism, or is the department radically revising its strategy?

[Fedorov] Both. At least, as far as I am concerned, these things are inseparable. It would be a sin, in my opinion, if the abilities of Sergey Aleksashenko, who has worked side by side with professor Yevgeniy Yasin and spent half a year with the Bank of Finland, were not used to the maximum. Of course, it is also useful to write sensible scholarly papers and sharply criticize the government. But it is still better to enter the government and use one's brains for a major cause. Andrey Kazmin, who has spent a year and a half in Germany's Bundesbank, has also in a certain sense been wasting his time recently. I believe that both men are very good specialists: with good theoretical backgrounds, an extensive practical experience and a knowledge of something without which no market economy can be built. Unfortunately, very few of the people I know well would now be ready to work in a ministry. If there is a choice—a commercial bank or the Ministry of Finance, then only those who are really interested, who really know what to do for the country would come to us. The selection was not accidental at all; it fits into the ministry's strategy, its new guidelines.

[Bekker] This is very opportune. One tends to get the impression that the inflation-related situation, which has been holding for four months, is now beginning to break. Some 3-3.5 trillion rubles needs to be allocated for the harvesting campaign and for northern navigation, and this can break the precarious financial equilibrium, a relatively tolerable growth of consumer and wholesale prices.

[Fedorov] Indeed, we are in a critical phase. In fact, in the next one or two weeks—three at the most—a political choice will have to be made: Either we continue financial stabilization and therefore maintain the announced budget deficit and prevent centralized credits from growing beyond the volumes coordinated with the Central Bank, or we turn back to a different, pro-inflation policy. In order to withstand the pressure of lobbies, very strong nerves and political fortitude are needed. And from a practical point of view, something like an emergency budget is needed—a package of measures that would be implemented in deed and not on paper. And not over several months but literally within just a few weeks. The ministry is preparing such a program. But its fate will depend on the president, the premier, and the entire government. The Council of Ministers, in my view, can sway in any direction. Pressure from the branches has intensified. The agrarian lobby has turned the country upside down, if you will excuse the expression: all these hysterical statements in the press, cordons with pitchforks, snapshots in the papers, and so forth. I for one cannot understand why the state should under the pressure of agricultural producers buy a greater part of the grain at so-called negotiated prices and not at market prices. Why is the government supposed, regardless of demand, to index procurement prices, moreover raise them from month to month? I think that a very serious blunder has been made in this sphere and it will cost the treasury trillions, which, incidentally, it does not have. The budget situation is critical: The budget approved by parliament has not been adopted by the president and the government, while our budget has been turned down by the deputies. This is not just a matter of a local conflict; what we are seeing in fact is the economy being strangled: the budget, apart from expenditures, which can be executed by a presidential edict, also provides for revenues, a number of decisions regarding which we cannot implement on our own. For instance, raising the value added tax [VAT] which, if not approved as a law, is illegitimate and therefore not binding on the enterprises. Thus we have lost 3 to 4 trillion rubles in revenue.

[Bekker] Are you referring to the 7-percent increase in the VAT to finance the mining industry and the agro-industrial complex?

[Fedorov] Those programs had other, smaller sources. But the Supreme Soviet rejected all of this and therefore the budget strain is approaching a critical mark. Without emergency measures, without a package of tough budget decisions we will not be able to salvage the situation. The budget will simply collapse by the end of the year unless we abandon our soft-heartedness "in the name of production." The financing of enterprises that have no way of being covered is a deeply vicious practice which I have been opposing all along. It seems that a special presidential edict has been issued on that account. But a number of ministers in the government are challenging a decree by the Council of Ministers issued based on the president's edict. His edict on coal price liberalization has also received a peculiar interpretation. [passage omitted] [Bekker] Without real bankruptcies a financial stabilization policy is artificial. The situation seems to be a deadlock.

[Fedorov] This is fair, but it is only one side of the coin. If politicians did not give way to pressure from lobby groups, then, obviously, without subsidies and soft credits an increasing number of enterprises would have to move. Many companies have well adjusted to the situation and are not making any deliveries to anyone. They are calling for guarantees, and sometimes hire specialists—excuse me for being prosaic—to collect debts. Those that are concerned about their employees' salaries and the future of enterprises are learning how to live. Nonpayments cease to be a problem for them. At the same time those who have become accustomed to obtaining credits from the government are not particularly worried. The same agrarian lobby is very pushy in procuring preferential credits. [passage omitted]

[Bekker] In fact there are sources. Trillions of rubles are being accumulated in off-budget funds controlled by parliament. They are being used irrationally, to put it mildly.

[Fedorov] The government has already adopted a decision whereby 13 out of 17 off-budget funds are to be included in the budget. As for the others, their consolidation with the budget is the Supreme Soviet's jurisdiction. In working out a financial normalization package we shall propose a whole number of measures, including the merging of pension and insurance funds. I cannot understand why they should exist autonomously. A huge system which regardless of the government is spending the taxpayers' money. This appears very dubious. Moreover, this is happening against the backdrop of parliament's criticism of the Council of Ministers for limited social support, delays in wage payments at industrial enterprises, and so forth. In a word, the Council of Ministers is proposing a package of two to three dozen measures—it will now be up to the president and the government.

[Bekker] You are being called the executor of the IMF's plan to break down the ruble zone.

[Fedorov] Who is calling me this?

[Bekker] ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, for instance.

[Fedorov] Well, then I have no questions. This organ of the Supreme Soviet has an impeccable reputation. And the quality of its economic analysis is on a par with that of THE FINANCIAL TIMES or THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

[Bekker] President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan has recently said that you and Shokhin are the main opponents within the government of the preservation of the ruble zone.

[Fedorov] Nursultan Abishevich is an authoritative politician but we are dealing directly with monetary problems. He maintains the interests of his state and we are a Russian Government department. The Finance Ministry, I assure you, is in favor of the ruble zone. But only a civilized zone, with firm rules for everybody and with a mechanism not infringing anybody's interests. But I do not welcome a zone where one country indiscriminately credits some ten states, as a result of which $17 billion is being pumped out of Russia annually and where the price paid by our population for the "friendship" is a 25-percent increase in the level of inflation. I am not sure that our neighbors would gain if such a ruble zone led to the restoration of communism in Russia.

[Bekker] At present the delivery of cash to the CIS states is proceeding virtually in the absence of interstate agreements, without the budget deficit, the volume of emission, and reserve requirements being coordinated with Russia and approved by the parliaments of the neighboring states. It appears to be an advance payment, as it were. Moreover, without a single price, tax, and customs policy.

[Fedorov] This is not a question—it is an answer why the Finance Ministry so far regards the ruble zone as a fiction. We can see only a chain of unilateral concessions on the part of Russia which are heavily affecting its economy and rebounding on social order and calm. Recently the Central Bank shipped 50 billion rubles in cash to Uzbekistan. Apparently there are similar plans with regard to Kazakhstan and Belarus. If the export of cash is put on an "assembly line" basis, then the Central Bank's arguments concerning the cancellation of old ruble banknotes will be absolutely worthless.

[Bekker] The Central Bank could say that there is a decision by the Russian parliament and also interstate agreements on credits to the republics for the second half of this year in the amount of 800 billion rubles.

[Fedorov] That 800 billion is commodity credits, with a protocol specifying how much oil and other goods they will buy and how much they will pay for them. Cash has nothing to do with this. In fact these are export credits. Like the German 'Hermes' line, when we were offered a tied credit

for the purchase of strictly specified German goods. At present talks are under way on the creation of a real ruble zone. We are proposing a scheme which would take several months to implement. If Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Armenia, and Tajikistan sign such agreements, then I assure you that no one will say that the Finance Ministry opposes the ruble zone. [passage omitted]

[Bekker] And what would the government do if in September or October the Congress of People's Deputies votes for the resignation of the Cabinet of Ministers over its failure to fulfill the budget approved by parliament?

[Fedorov] This is up to the government to decide. For myself, I shall say that politically the situation has gone so far that civilized methods of work are becoming impossible. I have addressed the deputies on several occasions and felt their absolute deafness to everything being said by a government representative. Nor are they responsive to a written text or to arguments in a debate since they are already set to reject everything. This parliament has morally exhausted itself. Therefore I do not think that its voice would encourage the Council of Ministers to resign. The sole way of resolving this contradiction are the speediest elections possible. Otherwise we shall be prolonging the agony of the conservative public institution. [sentence as published] The economy and the people are suffering as a result of political battles. In my opinion, it is far more important for the population to see a reduction of prices in the shops than to hear the "generous" speeches by the speaker of all Russia.

Government Owes Defense Ministry Billions of Rubles

LD2508114293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1135 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow August 25 TASS—The Russian Defence Ministry is short of resources to provide the Armed Forces with modern military machinery and equipment, as well as weapons in conformity with the state order approved by the government.

ITAR-TASS was told by the press office of the ministry that the government owes the Defence Ministry 271 billion roubles earmarked for research and design work and 324.9 billion roubles to purchase weapons and military equipment. Hundreds of enterprises in the defence sector are awaiting long-promised allocations, the sources said.

Airborne Troops Commander on Mobile Forces

OW2508060993 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1855 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Interview with Colonel General Ye. Podkolzin, commander of airborne troops, by unidentified VoyenTV (Ministry of Defense Television) correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Utro" program—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] You are not in a holiday mood. Why? What bothers you as commander?

[Podkolzin] Many issues bother me as commander. First, quite frankly economic issues today, particularly financial ones in the Armed Forces, are so complex they are of concern not only to me but to every soldier and every officer, particularly officers of the rear services. Can you imagine that literally two days ago there was no bread in the Ryazan garrison, and meat has not been available for a long time. I can tell you it is very painful, and I avoid phone calls.

Today four units of airborne troops were withdrawn, and another two are en route to new deployment areas....

[Correspondent, interrupting] You mean from abroad, right?

[Podkolzin] ...from neighboring foreign countries. Can you imagine that today not a single serviceman among those being withdrawn, from general down to basic soldier, has an apartment?

[Correspondent] The airborne troops today are the center of attention of public opinion. Some view the airborne troops with apprehension, some with hope. Do such polarized judgments and opinions bother you?

[Podkolzin] I am aware of this, and I have been at meetings where ambiguous questions were asked and airborne troops accused of having blood up to their elbows. Everyone should view the airborne troops with hope, not with apprehension. Since 1988 until February of this year we have been engaged in peacekeeping operations in all hot spots and in every region. Even though airborne troops have not killed even a single person, not even a bandit, we have lost about 100 of our young men who were quite blameless, physically healthy, and well trained and who were serving in our forces.

[Correspondent] Yet do you not think that at times the airborne troops are being used in some kind of political game, and that sometimes they are basically hostages in this political game?

[Podkolzin] Well, we are not involved in any political games, and our troops are not participating in these polemics. However some politicians would like to involve our troops on one side or another, and to agitate them along the lines of who will you support or who will you oppose, and so forth. But the troops have already shown who they will oppose and who they will support. At any rate, they will act in accordance with our existing laws and will be on the side of the people. They will defend our Russian people.

[Correspondent] Information appeared a year ago that mobile forces would be formed on the basis of airborne troops. However, so far nothing more has been heard about this.

[Podkolzin] We are to complete the creation of mobile forces by 1995. If our financial problems then are not as

difficult as they are now, we will complete this on schedule. However in the event of problems there can be no guarantees.

[Correspondent] In other words, the airborne forces will form the backbone and....

[Podkolzin, interrupting] The basis of the mobile forces will be composed of airborne troops. Besides the airborne troops, the mobile forces will include other units of ground forces; aviation, naval, and air defense forces; and other types of troops.

[Correspondent] Do your troops have a problem today with conscriptions? Are there enough recruits?

[Podkolzin] We will be demobilizing two call ups this fall, those who have served two years and those who have served one and a half years. If we do not call up the same number of conscripts in autumn as were demobilized, this will produce a complete fiasco.

[Correspondent] What about contractual services, can it save the day?

[Podkolzin] Contractual services could save the situation, however this will cost money. We will not have an army until a law on universal military service is adopted.

[Correspondent] So we still need a law on universal military service?

[Podkolzin] Yes, it is essential. We are not rich enough today to have contractual services for our enormous territory.

[Correspondent] So Russia has its own method of military service, if I can put it that way?

[Podkolzin] It must have. Russians have always served in accordance with the law, no matter what. Why are we signing people up under contracts today?

[Correspondent] Because there is no alternative?

[Podkolzin] We have cossacks who are volunteering to serve.

[Correspondent] To what extent can we say the airborne troops are ahead of other Armed Forces, for instance those of the United States, the FRG, and so forth?

[Podkolzin] Our airborne troops today are trained not only to prepare and carry out the airborne delivery of equipment from various types of aircraft, but to air deliver up to 17 tonnes of cargo. No other country in the world today can air deliver equipment of this weight. All tracked vehicles are air delivered using rocket systems which no other country in the world has. Not a single division or brigade of airborne troops in any other country has combat vehicles such as ours. Today we have extensive experience in air-dropping personnel in combat vehicles. In other words, we drop combat vehicles with the crew inside the vehicle.

[Correspondent] Russian soldiers were always lauded for close combat or hand to hand combat.

[Podkolzin] Every soldier and every sergeant is trained in special combat techniques, and I would not suggest to anybody to take on any of our airborne troops one on one. It is all right to greet and embrace them, but to approach an airborne soldier for any other reason would be against your better judgment.

[Correspondent] Particularly if they intend to harm them.

[Podkolzin] Yes. [laughs]

Regional Affairs

N. Ossetian Parliamentarian on Russian-Georgian Treaty

LD2508035593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Akhsarbek Galazov, head of the North Ossetian parliament, has sent a telegram to the Russian leadership about the possible signing of a full-scale Russian-Georgian treaty. As is known, after talks with Boris Yeltsin in Moscow, Eduard Shevardnadze said that the treaty will be signed in September. In this regard, the North Ossetian leader indicated that before such a treaty is signed, it is necessary to define the political status of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Kalmykia Rejects Right to Self-Determination

PM2508103993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Report by Vadim Ogurtsov: "Kalmykia Does Not Want Self-Determination"]

[Text] Rostov-na-Donu—There is much talk about the road this republic has taken to its bright future. Now the president himself, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, who recently visited Rostov-na-Donu with expensive gifts for his former military unit, set out the blueprint pretty clearly at a press conference.

Henceforth, he explained, the idea of a perfect environment will run through the entire economy of Kalmykia and all production.

Following the example of South Korea, Singapore, and Japan, a "Kalmykia" State Industrial Finance and Investment Corporation has been set up with an incorporation capital of $1 billion. In time, as a result of nationalization, the republic will be, as it were, a single family, with common tasks and aspirations. So the privatization of large enterprises has been stopped and they are taking back anything constructed by the state. It is all part and parcel of the task of earning money, since small enterprises or cooperatives will not solve Kalmykia's social problems.

As for his republic's sovereignty, he stressed that Kalmykia is still the only one of the former autonomous republics protesting against being given the national right to self-determination, enshrined in President B.N. Yeltsin's draft. Since, on obtaining it, the republics could "break up" the Russian Federation as well in a matter of momnths, as happened to the former USSR. Kalmykia has devised its own draft, which tolerates no self-determination or sovereignty. The desire in the North Caucasus to be separate is due, President Ilyumzhinov believes, to the fact that those in power are people who do not actually know how to earn money rather than economists. Kalmykia, he said, intends to be an arbitrator for those who are quarreling and fighting.

Unpaid Debts Prompt Power Cuts in Saratov Oblast

PM2408114393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Video report from Saratov by I. Deryugin and Ye. Gerasimenko; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Deryugin] The energy crisis in Saratov has reached crisis point. The debts of the local electricity authorities to the Volga-Energo head office total 8 billion rubles [R]. After repeated warnings, Volga-Energo's management resorted to an extreme measure—a three-hour suspension of centralized electricity supply to the oblast. This brought individual industrial and agricultural enterprises to a halt.

The debts owed by local enterprises to the Saratov electricity authority are even higher, totaling R10 billion. Mutual nonpayments make the prevailing situation difficult to resolve. A system for the mutual settlement of accounts is currently being elaborated as a matter of urgency by the oblast administration. This may alleviate the problem, but it will not resolve it completely. And this means that the power may be cut again, but this time it will not be for three hours. [passage omitted]

Chelyabinsk Faces Fuel Crisis

PM2508110393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 93 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed news column report]

[Text] Chelyabinsk is on the brink of a fuel crisis as a result of the increase in prices of petroleum products and the halting of oil deliveries from Bashkiria.

The decision to stop deliveries was made by the Bashkiria Government the other day. Henceforth Bashkortostan will confine itself to supplying oil to Kazakhstan in exchange for Kazakhstani grain. Chelyabinsk Oblast is unable to barter in this way.

Chelyabinsk-65 Radioactivity '200 Times' Above Norm

PM2408153193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Video report by Natalya Prokofyeva and Vladimir Volkov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Video shows three people in front of building] [Prokofyeva] Elena Mikhaylovna, we can see that the dosimeter is currently reading 2,299. What does that mean? [Video shows biophysicist E.M. Kravtsova]

[Kravtsova] It means that the dose we are being exposed to is 2,299 microroentgens an hour.

[Prokofyeva] How does that compare to normal levels?

[Kravtsova] Background radiation in populated areas varies between four and 20 microroentgens. That's quite a standard level.

[Prokofyeva] So this is 200 times more?

[Kravtsova] Indeed.

[Prokofyeva] The modern age brings modern problems. The historical facts are quite well-known, but I will mention them nonetheless. In the forties, fifties, and sixties the country's nuclear shield was developed at the so-called "Mayak" Chemical Combine at Chelyabinsk-65. What with the escapes of radioactivity into the Techa River, the major accident in 1957, and radiation carried on the wind from Lake Karachay, specialists reckon that the "Mayak" industrial zone and lakes, swamps, and soil hereabouts contain radiation equivalent to 50 Chernobyls.

[Kravtsova] One of the problems of the state program to rehabilitate our region which is of considerable importance is to do as much as possible to carry out conservation work and stabilize the situation around Lake Karachay. Not only the question of wind-blown radiation, but stabilizing the spread of contaminated ground water. [passage omitted]

New Airline Flies Moscow-Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy Route

PM2408105793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Aug 93 First Edition p 1

[INTERFAX report: "Aeroflot No Longer Has Monopoly in Khabarovsk"]

[Text] An Il-62M belonging to the "Nebo" private airline in Khabarovsk flew the Moscow-Khabarovsk-Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy route Thursday.

This marked the inauguration of passenger routes on an alternative airline to Aeroflot. The 1983-vintage aircraft was acquired by the "Nebo" Airline after a long period of standing idle at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport.

Prior to this it had served the president of Mozambique, but was not required by the Africans after a major overhaul.

New Air Route Links Vladivostok, Sakhalin

LD2508081693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0258 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tatyana Pozhidayeva]

[Text] Vladivostok, 25 Aug—A new air route opened today linking the Sakhalin airport of Zonalnoye with Vladivostok. There will be two flights a week and the fare is 37,000 rubles.

This is the fourth populated point on the island to be served by planes from the mainland. The route has been opened at the request of Sakhalin residents from remote areas, for whom it is much more convenient to cross to the mainland from Zonalnoye airport than from the oblast center.

'Formerly Secret' Kamchatka Airfield To Run Commercial Operations

PM2508105593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1245 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Video report by unidentified correspondent from "Business in Russia" program]

[Text] [Correspondent] The formerly secret Yelozovo Russian military airfield in Kamchatka will soon start operating in a different capacity. It will be receiving flights from foreign airlines and may soon become a major international airport.

New Oil Deposit Found in Kuban Area

LD2508101493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0928 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Zhilyakov]

[Text] Krasnodar August 25 TASS—A new deposit of oil inaugurated in the Kuban area today was called Sladkovskoye. An industrial deposit of oil is situated at the depth of nearly 2,500 metres.

By its composition oil is close to diesel fuel. As an experiment, operators of a drilling rig filled a tractor's tank with oil from the well and switched on the engine. It worked.

The Krasnodar territory is the oldest oil-bearing field. Russia first began to extract oil in the area in mid-19th century. Krasnodarneftegaz is one of the few oil-extracting enterprises where there has been no drop in oil production.

Moscow Military Ordered To Help Harvest Fields

PM2408154193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Aug 93 p 1

[Report by Feliks Semyanovskiy of Moscow Military District; under "From Our Newsdesk" rubric: "Army in Fields Again. This Time in Agricultural Fields"]

[Text] Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, has decided to use Moscow Military District servicemen to help organize agricultural harvesting work in Moscow region fields and deposit produce at Moscow vegetable depots. To this end 21,800 men and 140 vehicles will be allocated.

The following payment is envisaged: A serviceman will receive 1,000 rubles for fulfilling the 24-hour norm. The norm is quite feasible, but depends on the yield, weather conditions, and the type of harvesting. Servicemen will travel to Moscow region fields from 25 through 29 August and will start work 1 September.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Defends CIS Economic Union

LD2408170093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1425 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Interview with President Leonid Kravchuk by I. Storozhuk; date and place not given—from the "Ukraine: On the Path to Freedom" feature; recorded]

[Text] [Storozhuk] Leonid Makarovich, it is well known that the Ukrainian people fought for centuries for a chance to have their own state, and today we have this state, despite, as one would say, certain difficulties. As president of Ukraine, what can you say about these difficulties?

[Kravchuk] There are difficulties and difficulties. I do not know a single historical precedent where a state, especially a qualitatively new state, was built without difficulties. We have great difficulties, linked, I believe, to the following factor:

Our difficulties are primarily of an economic nature. Our economy was built taking into account the resources of the entire country, technological, and intellectual capacities of the whole country, and so on. Now we have created our own state, the people have created their own state. But the resources—those that used to belong to the whole country—have mainly remained in other states, in Russia to a very great extent. Now these resources must be paid for, not just paid for, but paid for at world prices. It is clear that until we all—the president, the prime minister, the Supreme Council, every director or worker—until we all realize that we must learn to work in such a way that we earn more than we have invested, produce quality and quantity, and sell, profit, and live off it—unless we understand this, nothing will change the situation. No associations, no unions, because—and I want to be understood correctly, I am in favor of integration, cooperation, alliances, and very close economic links—if there are people who think that after this everything will be cheaper, and Ukraine will get cheap oil, gas, and timber, this is nothing but another illusion. We must forget it.

We must live in accordance with the following principle: We earn, we sell, and we buy. We must live in accordance with our possibilities, not our wishes. And no president, no government, and no Supreme Council—who should provide proper conditions though—will be able to substitute the main thing, that is, to learn to work, to make money, and to buy at market-based prices. All the rest is nothing but good intentions, another illusion.

These difficulties stem not only from our present day but from the past, too, and we must overcome them. These difficulties are great. Their essence has two aspects. The government, the president, and the Supreme Council provide relevant economic and political conditions and the people work conscientiously: they unite and create high quality and competitive products. So the following conclusion can be made: We need peace, harmony, and work, the three main factors to achieve this. If they are provided, difficulties will be overcome the way other peoples overcame them, and we will celebrate our third, fourth, and fifth anniversaries. I strongly believe that during these anniversaries we will enjoy a higher level of our culture and well-being, respect for the law, community, and good relations with neighbors.

[Storozhuk] I would like to touch upon the following question as well: It is obvious that all the former Union republics feel the need to maintain mutual relations. What importance does Ukraine attach to these relations in its foreign policy and, in general, what is your view of the problem?

[Kravchuk] There are some important points here. First, today not a single state of the former Union will be able to solve the crisis unless we create a common economic space and a common economic market within the CIS. Why? Because links with the West and its economy are links of a qualitatively new level. They include world prices, payments in currency, new technologies, new banking, financial, and credit systems, and new relations in all aspects of economic life.

I raise one question with everybody: Is a single one of former USSR republics ready for such ties? And I respond categorically: No, it is not.

So, today we must resolve our most important problems and raise ourselves step by step toward this level of relations, using the possibilities of CIS market economy. Everybody must appreciate this. But if we limit ourselves to this and rigidly cling to these levels and links, we may remain where we are. Therefore, while strengthening, developing, and improving links and economic integration within the CIS, we must not lock ourselves in it, we must develop relations with technologies of the West—where they are higher—with the financial and market economy and expertise of the West. I favor links with all states, but it would be erroneous to cut off links or think that one could bypass current realities. I speak about this constantly.

It is an illusion to believe that we can enter the Western market today as an equal partner. We can't. None of us can. Some goods, some commodities can get there, but by and large we cannot integrate today, not having the necessary economic, market, and financial level. We cannot.

Therefore, in our policy, and in the policy that I have been propagating all the time, we pursue the strengthening of economic, political, and other links with CIS countries, Russia, Belarus, and other states.

[Storozhuk] Leonid Makarovich, all we have been talking about is problems, however, it is a holiday today.

[Kravchuk] Yes it is indeed. I remember post-war times, Victory Day and other well-known holidays. It was a difficult time, life was exceptionally hard. I remember this well. There was no bread where I lived. And in spite of all this, people knew how to celebrate, they had great

faith. Faith is the most important thing. Everyone must have faith, because there are forces and people today who are constantly eroding this faith, who are trying to raise doubts in our possibilities. High-level statesmen and also middle managers sow these doubts, and sow this fear.

I would like the second anniversary to draw a line here. Each and everyone should understand that everything we do for the people should be done with the highest degree of responsibility and great faith in us being capable of building a state because all people have lived through difficult times, I stress, but each people has built a state of its own and today enjoys well-being and a life worthy of the individual. And we will succeed in this too, given our potential, resources, and everything. But one should not sow mistrust in our possibilities.

Profiting by this occasion, I would like to thank the leaders of CIS member-states since this program will be mainly broadcast throughout the CIS—Boris Yeltsin, Nursultan Nazarbayev, Karimov, Shushkevich, all those who have sent greetings to our state and our people on the Independence Day—to wish them good health and successes, great courage in these difficult times, and the hope that we will arrive at such mutual relations within the framework of our states, both economic and political, that will help one another to build their states and not hamper them. Ukraine is ready for this.

[Storozhuk] Thank you very much, Leonid Makarovich.

[Kravchuk] All the best to you. And greetings on the occasion!

Clinton Sends Congratulatory Message

WS2408154193 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] This day is significant both for the Ukrainian people and many Americans of Ukrainian descent. This was said in a congratulatory message of U.S. President Bill Clinton to Leonid Kravchuk. In particular, it stresses the importance of building a democratic and nonnuclear Ukraine for peace and stability in Europe. Clinton expressed his support for the efforts by our state to carry out the transformation of our economy based on the market and private initiative principles. The message notes the need to continue intensive work directed at the all-around development of bilateral relations and the solution of problems facing our countries.

FRG Ambassador Interviewed on Ties

AU2508095993 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 21 Aug 93 p 5

[Interview with Hennecke Graf von Bassewitz, FRG Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Ukraine, by HOLOS UKRAYINY correspondent Ihor Hrushko; place and date not given: "One Can Trust Your External Policy"]

[Text] *By tradition, diplomats accredited in any state are always headed by a doyen, the French for 'elder.' For this post, representatives of the diplomatic corps elect their most esteemed and experienced colleague. Hennecke Graf von Bassewitz, FRG Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary is a doyen in Ukraine. On the eve of the second anniversary of the proclamation of Ukrainian independence, HOLOS UKRAYINY correspondent Ihor Hrushko met with him.*

[Hrushko] Mr. Ambassador, we still have people who think that we did not need this independence. They reason that they somehow lived under the empire and had their piece of bread, though not very big, yet with butter....

[Bassewitz] The overwhelming majority of Ukraine's people ultimately decided to become independent at the referendum in December 1991. I can assure you: The whole world accepted this decision with deep respect and immediately recognized the sovereignty of Ukraine and the expression of its people's will. That there now exist certain economic difficulties could well be expected. They always accompany the initial period of state development.

[Hrushko] You are an experienced diplomat and a witness, from the very start, of Ukraine's obtaining its independence. What can you say about its achievements in the international sphere? How do you assess the work of your Ukrainian colleagues?

[Bassewitz] I am following the activity of Ukrainian diplomacy with great interest and sincere respect. It was extremely difficult for it to get started. There was a shortage of specialists and of capital. Notwithstanding this, it has gradually, step by step, achieved significant successes. Ukraine has become an equal member of the world community and has diplomatic missions in many countries of the world. In particular, your embassy in Bonn works very actively. It is my personal opinion that Ukraine's external policy has a distinct orientation and it may be trusted.

[Hrushko] Speaking with you, I cannot help asking: How the FRG ambassador in Ukraine rates the present state of German-Ukrainian relations?

[Bassewitz] I started my work in your country in 1989 as the German Consul General. Since that time, and since Ukraine gained its independence, our relations have acquired a new character. Primarily, in the political sphere. They received an impetus after visits by statesmen from both sides. For example, in 1992 alone, 46 deputies of the FRG Bundestag visited Ukraine. The visit by Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl to Kiev on 9 and 10 June 1993 also contributed much to strengthening bilateral relations.

[Hrushko] Thus, there are no problems between our countries in the political sphere? How about the economic sphere?

[Bassewitz] I would say that over the last two years, the activity of German firms in Ukraine has considerably intensified. However, in order to put into effect all the possibilities offered by mutually advantageous cooperation, it might be a good idea to reinforce its legislative foundation. It is a matter of protecting foreign investments and the activity of foreign entrepreneurs in Ukraine.

[Hrushko] Mr. Ambassador, thank you very much for the interview.

[Bassewitz] In conclusion, I wish the HOLOS UKRAYINY readers and all citizens of your country further advancement along the road of Ukraine's development as a great and peaceful European state. As a doyen of the diplomatic corps, I want to stress: All foreign diplomats accredited here are greatly interested in developing cooperation between their states and Ukraine and will do everything they can to continue developing it.

UNSO To Continue Fighting in Georgia Despite Deaths

AU2508093893 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 21 Aug 93 p 2

[Anatoliy Rudenko commentary: "Spending One's Leave... at War"]

[Text] Ukrainian volunteers are dying for nothing in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. The funeral of one of them, Roman Halazyka, a 23 year-old Lvov resident who used to work at the "Polyaron" production association took place at the Lychakiv Cemetery. Soon, the body of Yavoriv resident Serhiy Obukh will be flown home. His funeral is being prepared.

The commander of the Lvov regional unit of the Ukrainian People's Self-Defense [UNSO] force, Oleh Vitovych, did not take part in combat actions. Instead, he was celebrating his wedding with Khrystyna Penzhola, an American of Ukrainian descent in a restaurant. He is well aware of how the riflemen took their trade-union leave and went to war. For four days, a UNSO detachment held its positions during the attack on the town of Shroma near Sukhumi, but had to retreat in an organized manner after a subunit numbering about 2,000 men and two tanks was brought in against it. The riflemen managed to emerge from that battle with minimal losses. A 19-year old Kievan nicknamed "Tsvyakh" [Nail] died in his father's arms. Roman Halazyka was mortally wounded by a shell splinter that hit him in the stomach. For almost a week the medics at a military hospital in Tbilisi tried in vain to save his life. The zinc coffin was delivered to Kiev where a funeral service for the dead soldier was held at Volodymyr Cathedral. The coffin was brought to Lvov. At the funeral, editor of HOLOS NATSIYI [The Voice of the Nation] A. Shkil said: "Roman Halazyka died so the nation could advance with dignity. He died for the honor of the nation. We have no right to rest until we avenge this first death among us."

It has become known that a new team of UNSO riflemen is being recruited to fly to Georgia. The newspaper POST-POSTUP carried out a poll on the subject "What is your opinion on whether the death, near Sukhumi, of the three UNSO volunteers is justifiable by the interests of the Ukrainian state in the Caucasus?" Only two out of 100 respondents answered in the affirmative; almost one-third found it difficult to answer; and 69 percent said "no."

Security Service Said Aiding UNSO

PM2508083993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24 Aug 93 p 3

[Olga Musafirova report: "Riflemen Cast an Ominous Shadow"]

[Text] Kiev—People react to these guys in different ways. Officials in Kiev prefer to turn a blind eye to them. Some people see the Ukrainian People's Self-Defense [UNSO] force detachments as the nation's saviors and genuine patriots. Many are afraid: The UNSO guys do not like Muscovites and Jews in general, and those with the temerity to continue living in Ukraine to this day in particular. Other people think that a few hundred UNSO members are neither here nor there and can have no impact on the independent state's foreign and domestic policy or its image in the world.

The Ministry of Justice has refused to register the organization: Ukrainian law bans the setting up of militarized formations. This fact, however, does not in any way prevent it from existing and acting according to its own laws. This means waging war in parts of the planet that may pose a potential danger to Ukraine. At the moment this has been limited to nearby foreign countries, the former USSR republics which have without exception turned into "hot spots." Not so long ago the self-defense troops took the initiative and helped their neighbors in battle—they participated in the Dniester conflict on the side of the Dniester Moldavian Republic. They even earned a combat decoration from the Dniester Moldavian Republic Supreme Soviet president—a medal for their standard. They have also fought on the Georgian-Abkhaz frontline.

The newspaper KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI has published "reports from the frontline" received by the press center of the Ukrainian National Assembly [UNA], whose combat detachment the UNSO is. Here is one of them.

"On 17 June I received an order from headquarters to break through the enemy's defenses near the small town of Shroma, enter Shroma, and wait for the arrival of replacement troops which were to develop the attack and seize the town. I had the following resources: 23 riflemen, two Kalashnikov tank machineguns, and three

antitank rocket launchers. We began to storm Shroma. The Muscovites could not withstand the onslaught and began to flee. They were unable to collect up their dead, amounting to 12 men. All the dead were dressed in identical uniforms, all were clearly of Russians nationality, and from their personal gear and equipment you could see that they were regulars..."

The UNSO has also sustained human losses: Several of them have been killed and more than 20 wounded. Georgia does not pay them any money to participate in the battles—they are volunteers after all and not mercenaries. However, it is said that back in the homeland certain circles close to the Ministry of Defense are financing these heroes doing this job. According to the same unconfirmed sources, these patriots and romantics are being carried to the front not only in passenger but also in military transport aircraft.

According to one version of events, the UNSO received its immuninity by dint of a document of safe conduct issued directly by the Ukrainian Security Service—which is why neither legal experts nor law enforcement agents can touch it. While such "extremists" remain in existence, the Ukrainian Security Service is justified in demanding sizeable sums from the president for its operations. If the UNSO disappears, life will immediately become more difficult. Furthermore, not everybody in state service is ready to die yet for an ideal which is sung about in a song: "Ukraine, its freedom, honor, glory, and its people!"

According to UNSO leaders' statements, its plans in the near future—about which no secret is being made—include the creation of "hot spots" on the territory of Russia itself. In as much as this is possible—using the Don Cossacks.

Surely people are not irrepressibly drawn to killing "foreigners" out of love for their "own" kind?

National Affairs

Kravchuk Greets Nation on Independence Day

LD2408214593 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 24 Aug 93

[No video available]

[Excerpts] I salute you. I salute you on the blessed holiday of Independence Day of our state. [passage omitted] One of the first impressions is that all of the people have indeed come out for the holiday, have come out onto the streets of Kiev, and have gathered here at the Pecherskiy Landscape Park, one of the festive places in the capital. Kievites and guests of the city—no, better not to say that, but to say, the citizens of an independent Ukraine—among whom is the president of our state. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Leonid Makarovych, one can see that these two years have led us not only to the certainty now that our independent state will survive, but have led these people here too, and you too, to simply celebrate. In spite of all the clouds in the sky here, in spite of, for example, the light rain, which started in the morning.

[Kravchuk] Well, if there is rain, people say that means good luck. And you see, there was rain today right on our holiday, the second anniversary of our independence. And people have come to celebrate.

I understand that it is difficult to find the appropriate words today, and it is not easy to express wishes. But I think that those passions going on around this have nevertheless inclined us to this opinion, to this excessively, well, moderate interpretation, even of one's holiday. Because, I have already said this, and I want to say it again, we nevertheless have very many people—I don't mean those people who cultivate flowers, not those people who have cultivated a large harvest of grain today, who extract coal, smelt steel, produce modern cars—no, I mean those people who have united in certain groups, certain parties, and there are those among them who all the time are eroding our faith that there can be an independent state.

I find it very annoying when I hear opinions from lofty tribunes that we supposedly will not manage, we will not survive, we will not have enough strength, we can only survive when we are under someone, or go under someone. This worries me so much, purely on a human level, that I always put the question to myself—where did all this misfortune come from? Is this really a conviction cast by that life of 70 odd years in the union, 340 years under someone somewhere, that people have stopped believing in their possibilities?

I do not know of such a case in history—I simply do not know of one—where people have not survived, or could not do what they intended to do. Well, there is no such case. Naturally, if external forces are not a hindrance, and if internal enmity is not a hindrance, or there is no lack of unity or something else missing, then people can always do anything.

And I am convinced that they will do this. Only one would want this to happen more quickly. Simply on a human level I would like this. And I know that people now have, simply, such a wish. A wish is all very well, but there is another circumstance: We have got used to thinking that someone may still come along and do something better, and things could get better again tomorrow. This is what we always learned.

There is only one conclusion: Only the people themselves can do this. Naturally they should not to be hindered. But conditions need to be created. We need to work together with the people, be with the people. And then everything will be all right. Everything will be all right. But saying everything will be all right does not mean that it will be easy. Although today is a holiday, and I spoke about this while I was campaigning in the

elections for president, I always emphasized that it would be difficult, even very difficult.

But today is a holiday. Greeting everyone on our great holiday, our national holiday, I want to say that the road will nevertheless not be easy and not be simple. But this does not at all mean that we will not have holidays, that we will only think about unpleasant things.

Today is a beautiful Kiev day. I want to greet Kievites and all of our people, all of Ukraine, with gladness and thank all those who have greeted us on this day. The presidents of all of the CIS countries have greeted us. I received a greeting from U.S. President Clinton yesterday. The queen of England has greeted us. The German leaders have greeted us. That is, the whole world salutes Ukraine on its second anniversary of independence. The world is saluting us. The world believes in us. Let us believe with them all and make our state wealthy and happy. [end recording] [passage omitted]

National Bank Measure May Cause Drop in Exchange Rates

PM2408123593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Aug 93 First Edition p 1

[Report by Vasiliy Zorya: "Panic on the Ukrainian Currency Exchange: 19,000 Karbovantsi to the Dollar""]

[Text] Kiev—The collapse of the karbovanets rate of exchange (by 100 percent against the German mark in the space of one day), which shocked bankers and entrepreneurs, will probably accelerate the start of monetary reform in Ukraine.

The unprecedented drop in the rate of exchange was due to the National Bank's attempt to return to administrative regulation of hard currency coming into the treasury. A telegram from the National Bank of Ukraine to exporters on 12 August gave instructions that one-half of hard currency earnings should be sold to the state at fixed rates, much lower than the real ones. The National Bank has resorted to another "temporary measure," saying it is necessary in order to pay off energy debts. This was consonant with the persistent rumors of the imminent introduction of a national currency, the hryvnya, which were belatedly denied by the Cabinet of Ministers press service. As a result, an uncontrolled off-loading of karbovantsi began on the legal currency market.

The panic on the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange reached its peak during the German mark auction on Tuesday, 17 August. One of the participants admitted that his bank had submitted for auction only 1 percent of its clients' applications. Despite that, demand was 12 times greater than supply. By the end of the auction they were already giving 7,000 karbovantsi to the mark, compared with the fixed rate of 3,494.

The Russian ruble rate soared on the exchange the next day. It was 15 karbovantsi to the ruble, which is three times the official rate. Experts predicted the U.S. dollar would leap to 12,000 karbovantsi on Thursday. But the rate soared to 19,000.

According to Volodymyr Pilipchuk, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Standing Commission on Questions of Economic Reform and National Economic Management, the result of the auction is a consequence of the total incompetence of the government and National Bank, which decided that they could relieve producers of one-half of their currency earnings on totally unfavorable terms with impunity.

It is known that around 60 percent of currency earnings are not ending up in the treasury anyway. This is the share of the so-called "crooked enterprises," whose directors have the backing of the deputies' lobby or are themselves members of it and are officially exempt from payment of a "hard currency contribution."

Nonetheless, according to unconfirmed data, new documents, a presidential edict even, are being prepared in support of the fixed hard currency rate. It appears that the authorities are simply unable to resist one of the main temptations of socialism: To acquire dollars and marks on behalf of the state at low rates and then share them out at their own discretion.

The commodity market reacted immediately. The price of gasoline, in particular, doubled from 1.5 million karbovantsi per tonne to 3 million. Commercial organizations are suspending the sale of motor vehicles, furniture, and domestic appliances. Ukrainian enterprises' exports have been hit. The karbovanets has been finally discredited. There is a possibility that monetary reform will have to hastily begin without the necessary economic prerequisites, solely on the basis of immediate political considerations.

Leonid Kravchuk was interviewed on Ukrainian Television 19 August. According to TASS reports, there was not a word in the interview about the collapse of the national currency.

National Bank Chairman Criticizes Fixed Dollar Rate

LD2508082193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0425 GMT 25 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Commenting on the state of the Ukrainian currency market in a conversation with a POSTFACTUM correspondent, Ukrainian National Bank Chairman Viktor Yushchenko expressed a negative attitude toward establishing a fixed dollar rate. Yushchenko believes that the rate of 19,050 karbovanets to one dollar, which was set at the latest trading on the currency exchange, is absolutely unrealistic and only reflects speculative

demand. Yushchenko said he expected that in about two weeks it will be necessary to abolish the fixed dollar rate.

Coast Guard Ships Raise National, Naval Flags

LD2408151993 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1415 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Balaklava, 24 Aug—Nineteen ships of the Ukrainian Coast Guard have raised the national and naval flags of the Ukrainian Coast Guard for the first time. Until today, all Ukrainian Coast Guard ships served under former Soviet flags. The green ensigns with blue and yellow stripes and a small Ukrainian national emblem were raised on the ships in compliance with an order by Colonel General [Valeriy] Hubenko, chairman of Ukraine's State Committee for Guarding State Borders. Rear Admiral Ihor Alferyev, commander of the squadron and people's deputy of the Crimean Supreme Council, greeted the coast guards at a ceremonial meeting. In his speech he said that despite the fact that the Soviet Union fell apart, the borders remained, and those borders, now part of an independent Ukraine, had to be watched.

On the same day, Ukrainian flags were raised on ships in Kerch, Feodosiya, and other Crimean ports where the coast guard is based.

Nationalist Rally Criticizes Government, Demands Elections

LD2408105193 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0715 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev, 23 Aug—A rally was held at the initiative of Ukraine's national democratic forces. The rally took place under the slogans "Ukraine's Independence is Inviolable" and "No to Economic Treaty." The rally was opened by Mykola Horbal (Ukrainian Republican Party). Speeches at the rally emphasized the necessity of the Supreme Council's resignation, the adoption of a new electoral law, new elections to the Ukrainian parliament, and the convocation of a Constitutional Assembly. The speakers criticized the policies of the government and particularly Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma. They urged picketing of the Cabinet of Ministers on the eve of the resumption of the Supreme Council's plenary meetings on 25 August.

The rally developed into a demonstration in Khreshchatyk under the slogans "Treaty With Moscow will Force our Children To Serve Under Fire," "Crimea is Not Moscow's Rome," and "Down With the Supreme Council Which has Brought the People to Poverty."

Belarus

Gas Shortages Threaten Industries

PM2408150993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Mikhail Shimanskiy Report: "Belarus Must Buy Fewer Mercedes in Order To Have Wherewithal To Pay Russia for Gas"]

[Text] Minsk—These days Belarus is in the throes of a very acute energy crisis. This is due to the restriction of Russian natural gas shipments.

Every morning Minsk automobile plant workers come to work. Regrettably, most of them have nothing to do for virtually the whole shift: There is an electricity shortage and production has virtually stopped. People are irritable, they are cursing and abusing the government—the Belarusian and Russian Governments. So as not to inflame the situation the plant's leadership has given virtually all its workers several "enforced" days off in a row without pay.

The Minsk Tractor Plant is still hanging on somehow. The assembly line here is only working a single shift. There is barely a glimmer of life in production units operating a continuous technological cycle. But even at the tractor plant people are being asked to either take days off and work at their dachas or go on more vacations.

Almost all the republic's major power-intensive industrial enterprises have found themselves in an extremely grave position. Owing to the acute shortage of natural gas, their daily electricity requirements are only being met 20-30 percent.

"Every day," Ye. Mishuk, the republic's deputy minister of power generation, said, "we need 25 million cubic meters of gas, we are receiving just over a third of that. We are burning around 15,000 tonnes of our winter fuel oil stocks in order to ensure that power stations do not come to a standstill. A total of 1.2 million tonnes are needed for the winter, there are just 170,0000 tonnes left."

But even this extreme step will not enable vital sectors of the Belarusian national economy to stay afloat for long. The population is alarmed. The republic press reports that demand for local fuel—peat briquets—has risen sharply over the last few days in rural areas.

Voices are now being heard in the republic: There you have the economic union between the three Slav states, the premiers' warm assurances of friendship and mutual assistance.

But there are objective factors why Russia has reduced gas shipments to Belarus.

"We are very much in Russia's debt," Aleksandr Korets, vice president of the Belarusian concern for fuel and gasification, said. "At the beginning of August the arrears totaled a vast sum—10 billion rubles [R]. This cannot go on indefinitely, the debts must be repaid, which is what Russia has demanded."

Russian gas shipments were reduced by 60 percent a few days ago—12 million instead of 31 million cubic meters. Admittedly, after part of the arrears were paid and following talks between a Belarusian Government delegation and leaders of Russia's "Gazprom" concern, daily shipments rose to 17 million cubic meters. And they are in effect totally taken up by sectors without which the republic would not survive a single day—municipal services, food producers.

What next? To date Belarus has paid Russia R20 billion for gas. The republic's government is urgently seeking more money. The situation has also deteriorated because there is a disastrous shortage of Russian cash in Belarus.

Two important conclusions suggest themselves with regard to the situation over Russian gas in Belarus. Everyone here has really appreciated the importance of Russian raw materials for the republic's economy. After all, Belarus not only buys almost all its gas from Russia, but also its oil, coal, and metal. Yet some hotheads in the republic are still proposing to sever economic relations with our eastern neighbor since they say that it is dictating very tough terms to Belarus. For God's sake. N. Kostikov, deputy chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers, says, severing economic relations with Russia spells ruin for us. The fact that these relations should be based on principles of equality and mutual benefit is another matter.

The residents of Belarus seem to have finally realized these days what it means to live in accordance with their means. No one will simply give the republic anything, everything has to be paid for. However, losses of fuel and energy resources in the republic are tremendous: In industry they sometimes total 10-60 percent and 40-80 percent in the municipal and domestic sector.

And another point. Many people in Belarus are now saying: Our leaders of various ranks should buy fewer Mercedes in order to have the wherewithal to pay for gas, oil, and metal. There is nothing to add to that.

Trade Unions Seek Compensation for Losses From Energy Shortage

WS2408122293 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The lack of energy resources in the Republic has brought the work of some Belarusian enterprises to an induced halt. The working collectives are experiencing financial losses. In the opinion of the Belarusian Independent Trade Union Association [BITUA], the violation of the Belarusian Labor Code of Laws is inadmissible. Taking into consideration the fact that the working collectives are not responsible for such a difficult situation, the BITUA proposes that the Belarusian Government—an owner of these enterprises—compensates the

financial losses caused by the induced halts of the work to the enterprises and the working collectives of these enterprises. The Belarusian Government is supposed to make payments from the state budget and to issue an official comment on the issue.

Grain From Kazakhstan To Offset Domestic Shortage

PM2008102593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Aug 93 First Edition p 4

[Report by Mikhail Shimanskiy: "Belarus Dependent on Kazakhstan for Bread"]

[Text] Minsk—Belarus is immediately sending people and equipment to Kustanay Oblast to bring in the harvest. In exchange Kazakhstan will supply it with 1 million tonnes of grain.

An agreement to that effect has just been signed by the two republics' governments. It is extremely important for Belarus—it does not have enough grain of its own. So far it has laid in only 60,000 tonnes of grain from its own harvest. Only one-third of the grain has been harvested. The forecasts were that the republic would bring in 7.5-8 million tonnes this year, but all the plans are being wrecked by bad weather.

Some 10 million tonnes are needed to provide for the republic's needs. A great deal of it is "devoured" by the large livestock-raising complexes that were constructed in P. Masherov's day [former first secretary of Communist Party of Belorussia Central Committee]. The second aspect of the grain problem is wheat to make bread with. The republic grows hardly any. Belarus needs one million tonnes of wheat if it wants to ensure that loaves of white bread are always available.

"Kazakhstan will supply us," Aleksey Yanovich, chief of a republic Council of Ministers administration, said, "and we will help it bring in the harvest. Belarus willingly accepted these terms because it is not in a position to buy wheat on the other side of the Atlantic, as the former Union used to do. The republic does not have the hard currency and the bread would be too expensive anyway. The leaders of Kustanay Oblast asked us to help bring in the harvest," Yanovich continued. "We are sending 2,000 combine operators to the oblast, together with the same number of trucks with drivers. But we did ask our partners for a guaranteed grain quota. Kazakhstan agreed: Before the new harvest it will send us the 200,000 tonnes of grain that were not delivered under last year's agreement and is setting a quota of 1 million tonnes of grain from the new harvest."

Resolution Adopted on Regulating Trade With Former USSR Republics

WS2308143893 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] The Belarusian Council of Ministers has adopted a resolution on regulating trade and economic relations and clearing accounts with the erstwhile USSR states. In order to keep the traditional markets and acquire new ones, and to raise the efficiency of export-import operations performed by Belarusian economic subjects, the resolution provides for a complex of economic and organizational measures. In particular, beginning 1 October 1993, the export-import operations will be carried out on the basis of customs declarations. The interested departments are charged with submitting to the Council of Ministers and Belarusian National Bank proposals on executing economic sanctions for the transfer by Belarusian legal bodies of financial resources, hard currency, and bills from erstwhile USSR states' to the accounts of the banks of these states, [words indistinct]. The resolution stipulates that beginning 1 October 1993, the Belarusian economic subjects will make one-time declarations of their financial assets which are outside of the Republic. The resolution states that all current accounts of the intergovernmental agreements are performed only through the National Bank accounts in the national banks of the states that did not belong to the USSR. [as heard]

'Zayats' Grow in Value at Expense of Ruble, Dollar

LD2308180193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1540 GMT 23 Aug 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Limanovskiy for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 23 Aug—In just five days the rate of the U.S. dollar on the black foreign currency market in Minsk fell by 1,000 points. While in the middle of last week the value of a dollar amounted to 3,500 payment bank notes of the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus, now it is down to about 2,000. Belarusian hard currency dealers are cursing for all their worth the republic's head of parliament, Stanislav Shushkevich, who visited Boris Yeltsin at the end of last week. The details of the above-mentioned visit have not been made public so far, but all hard currency dealers in Belarus already know for a fact that the republic will certainly remain in the ruble zone. The sharp fall of the exchange rate of the Russian ruble testifies to the same thing. Less than in a week, the value of the ruble in respect to Belarusian "zayats" [bunny money] has dropped by over 300 percent and constitutes now 1:1.40.

Government, Trade Unions To Discuss Social Protection

WS2408122493 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] A tripartite meeting of the representatives of the Belarusian Government, trade unions, and Association of Employers will be held in September. It will address the issues of the social protection of the population against the backdrop of the rise in prices. Currently, a working group consisting of the experts from the State

Economic Planning Committee, the Ministry of Finances, the State Committee for Labor, the State Committee for Statistics, the Trade Union Federation, and the Confederation of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs are working on the issues that had caused some disagreements. The experts are examining four issues:

1. Stabilizing the work of enterprises.

2. Upgrading taxation.

3. Assessing the demands of consumers.

4. Social protection and improving the health of the population.

Customs Officers Intercept Smuggled Munitions Headed to Africa

AU2508095793 Paris AFP in English 0904 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Minsk, Aug 25 (AFP)—Belarus customs officers did a double take when they inspected an air cargo marked as 25 tonnes of humanitarian aid—they found munitions for assault rifles instead of medicine, the customs officials said Wednesday [25 August].

The smuggled munitions, en route to Burkina Faso, west Africa, in an Ilyushin-86 cargo plane belonging to Transavia Export, were uncovered Monday [23 August] when the aircraft stopped over at the Machulishchy military airport near Minsk, the officials told AFP.

Customs inspectors found that the consignment's 1,250 boxes, described as containing "humanitarian aid - medicine," were in fact packed with munitions for Kalashnikov assault rifles, the service told added.

The Ilyushin-86, which was en route from China, had made an earlier stopover near Moscow.

An inquiry has been launched under the auspices of Belarus security services, the customs service added.

Customs declined to give details on where the illegal cargo had been loaded or reveal the identity of its intended recipient in Burkina Faso.

Popular Front Criticizes Government Management of Press

WS2408122693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The legislative Belarusian Popular Front opposition has issued a statement on the situation in the Republican mass media. In particular, the statement says that the creation of specific structures for the management of the Belarusian press and the nomination of staff in the state mass media is being carried out without any consultations with the relevant Supreme Soviet commission.

Kravchanka Confirms UN Envoy's 'Request' for Dismissal

WS2308090293 Minsk BELARUSKAYA NIVA in Belarusian 10 Aug 93 p 4

[Unattributed BELINFORM report: "Buravkin Is Coming Back"]

[Text] BELINFORM has learned that Gennadiy Buravkin, permanent Belarusian representative to the United Nations, has been dismissed from his post.

Our reporter asked Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka to comment on this issue.

It is true that Gennadiy Nikolaevich has submitted an application with a request to be relieved from his post, the minister said. The Council of Ministers has complied with his request. In August, Buravkin will return to Belarus.

Speaking on the issue of Buravkin's absence at the Minsk meeting of the Belarusian diplomatic representatives, Petr Kravchanka added that it was not expedient since Buravkin will return to Belarus in two weeks.

Moldova

Adviser Views Fuel Deliveries From Romania, Russia

AU2108132793 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1752 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 19/8/1993—We cannot rely on fuel deliveries from Romania in close time, no matter how much we desire it, stated to BASA Gheorghe Andries, adviser at the State Association for Fuel. There are lots of problems to be solved for reviving the import-export flow, he said. Basic conditions for this are a technical credit from Romania, trade representations in Chisinau and Bucharest and more concrete intentions in the direct dialogue with economic partners. The warehousing of oil is also a problem, as necessary containers are missing. According to Andries, Moldova cannot rely only on Romania's good will, without being aware of the quantities and conditions of the deliveries. Trade could be increased by introducing the national currency and by payments through banks. Talking on deliveries of fuel, gas and coal from Russia, Andries stated that Moldova will keep its relations with eastern partners, otherwise, "foreign businessmen will not understand us." Finally, Andries stated "we are aware of the unstable political situation in Russia and of the surprises it can always offer; however, we shall start digging oil in Tyumen, according to the Surgut reunion we adhered to."

Committees View Moldovan-Romanian Trade Problems

AU2408192993 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2006 GMT 23 Aug 93

["Economic Commentary"—BASAPRESS headline]

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 23/8/1993—After almost two weeks since the reunion of Moldovan and Romanian inter-ministry committees for mutual relations, their intentions still remain mere intentions. The reunion discussed "the decision of the Romanian Government to support the Government of the Republic of Moldova to solve some economic problems it recently faces." This reminds of other intentions, which were actually empty words because of the economic reality. Examples for this are the projects of a joint bank, or merging the energy systems, of Moldova's participation at the Cernavoda atomic power station, etc. Statistics show a depressing and unaccountable fact: the more economic relations the states have, the less the government and ministries have trades. Inter-ministry committees and work groups were created; also, "a mutual interest to increase cooperation was noticed." Economic relations between Romania and Moldova totalled $416.5 million in 1992 and only $60.9 million in the first half of 1993. The problem is more a economic than a political one. Romania has advantages in environment and conditions to reform economy and develop private property. As a proof, several months ago an idea appeared to create 100 joint ventures. At the end of 1992, already 252 were registered, from those 205 in Romania. The basic reason is the difference between the two economic policies: the Romanian reformist and the Moldovan conservatist. Romania's support for Moldova should be regarded from two points of view: first, for the closest time; second, for the future economic integration by a synchronous governing and economy. The last week's stifling voyage of some Chisinau officials to Bucharest and back showed their preoccupation with temporary problems. Top leaders do not speak for the time being about the future problems. At least, in the statements they make.

Government, Trade Unions Compromise on Wages, Prices

AU2408190893 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2006 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 23/8/1993—After unofficial talks Premier Andrei Sangheli had with Serafim Urecheanu, leader of Moldovan Trade Unions, a compromise was achieved. The price growth for bread and milk, initially foreseen for August 20th, was postponed, as BASA learned from reliable sources from government. Firstly, the trade unions demanded the Chisinau Government pay the 4 billion rubles various employees still had not received as wages. Andrei Sangheli accepted this condition. The Trade Unions Council had previously declared that the liberalization of bread and milk prices the government was up to start should be followed by measures of social protection. Basically, anticipate compensations should be paid to the people for their extra expenses. Unless the government accepted the demands, the trade unions would regard this as beginning of a conflict with the government. Sources from the Ministry of Finances stated to BASA that one cannot foresee when all wages will finally be paid.

Gagauz Leader Opposes New Constitution, 'Unitary State'

AU2108132693 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1752 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 19/8/1993—Today, manifestations dedicated to the third anniversary of the unilaterally proclaimed Gagauzian republic took place in Comrat. During the meeting, which took place in victory square of the town, Stepan Topal, the President of the self-proclaimed republic from Comrat, declared that "the fight of the Gagauzian republic for recognition in the world is strongly opposed by unionists from Parliament of Moldova who [words indistinct]. Under such circumstances, the existence of Gagauzian and Dniester republics constitutes the factor which does not allow the unleashing of processes having unpredictable consequences in the former Soviet Socialist Republic of Moldova." Topal stated that consolidation of a unitary state, provided by the project of the new Constitution of Moldova, "is equal to a domination of one nation upon another, a genocide against Gagauzian people and other peoples from the Republic of Moldova." The leader from Comrat expressed his hope that future elections in Parliament of Moldova "will change the rate of forces from the republic in favour of an equitable resolution of the Gagauzian problems." The theme of federalisation of Moldova and returning back to the former USSR was supported during this meeting by representatives of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, OSTK [United Council of Labor Collectives] from Tiraspol, "TRUDOVAYA ROSSIYA" Party, the Liberal-Democratic Party from Russia, and some other political organisations of a pro-communist orientation from Chisinau.

Kazakhstan

Economic Agreement With Azerbaijan Signed

LD2208125593 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 2300 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Text] Mars Urkumbayev, the head of South Kazakhstan Oblast Administration, met Abbas Abbasov, first deputy prime minister of Azerbaijan, in Sary-Agash and Shymkent and held talks with him. An agreement on mutually beneficial direct cooperation between the South Kazakhstan Oblast and Azerbaijan was signed. Azerbaijan will deliver oil products and consumer goods to Shymkent in return for grain from South Kazakhstan.

U.S. Cooperates in Development of Tengiz Field

PM2405135593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0500 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Report by Dukesh Baimbetov and Vladimir Lazarevskiy; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Baimbetov] The giant Tengiz Oilfield in Western Kazakhstan—one of the five biggest in the world—is located in an arduous desert environment. Moreover, it is difficult to exploit because of the presence of hydrogen sulfide and the considerable depth at which the reservoir is located. There was no way it could be developed without Western technology and Western experience of working such deposits. This was why the Kazakhstani-U.S. "Tengiz-Chevron" joint venture was set up. In the space of a year the collective was brought together, geological surveys carried out, and the first results obtained. But there are also lots of problems regarding transportation of the oil. Although a contract has been signed with Russia for the transportation of 3 million tonnes, only 1 million is being shipped. This is yet another example of how documents signed at top level are failing to operate on the ground. As is well known, the "Tengiz-Chevron" oil project also envisages the joint construction with Russia and the Central Asian republics of transport highways, power systems, and a series of oil refineries.

Parliament Works on Television, Broadcasting Bill

LD2408081093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0710 GMT 24 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[Text] Almaty, August 24—Work is proceeding in Kazakhstan at a fast pace on a bill on television and broadcasting. In addition to parliament members, the bill, which is expected to be submitted to the next session of the Kazakh Supreme Soviet, is being drawn up by local scientists, heads and officials of Kazakh electronic mass media establishments and foreign experts.

Local analysts believe that the step was taken to prevent the television and radio from being drawn into the struggle for power and for the satisfaction of personal political ambitions. The bill is expected to help save the state television and broadcasting system from collapse, to promote is commercial contacts and to combat pornography and propaganda of violence.

Professor Nicholas Johnson of the Iowa law college, U.S.A., who is taking part in the expert analysis of the bill, speaks highly about his joint efforts with Kazakh colleagues. The American scientist believes that, as distinct from some other republics of the former USSR, Kazakhstan was able to avoid ethnic strife. The existing inter-ethnic unity allows the republic to successfully implement the chosen course of cardinal reforms.

Tajikistan

Border Forces Chief Warns of Planned Attack on Posts

PM2408154493 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Aug 93 p 1

["Statement by Colonel General A. Nikolayev, Commander of the Russian Federation Border Forces"—KRASNAYA ZVEZDA headline]

[Text] The command of the Russian Federation border forces has in its possession reliable information concerning an action being prepared by Tajik opposition gunmen and Afghan mojahedin for the near future, to seize and destroy a number of border posts of the Moskovskiy, Pyandzhskiy, and Khorogskiy detachments. In the adjacent territory a concentration of IRP [Islamic Revival Party] gunmen and Afghan mojahedin can be observed, and weapons and ammunition are being brought in.

The command of the Russian Federation border forces is carefully monitoring the situation that has been taking shape in recent days on these border sectors, in conjunction with the corresponding structures in Tajikistan, and is taking concrete steps to ensure the security of servicemen and prevent an armed incursion into the republic's territory. The responsibility for possible armed provocations and their consequences rests with those forces that seek to wreck the emergent processes toward a political settlement of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Russian Border Guards Attacked

LD2508074793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0743 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow August 25 TASS—Three Russian border guards were wounded in the past 24 hours on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan when militants used firearms and grenade launchers to shoot at border posts 12 and 13 of the Pyanj border troops. Shooting came from inside Tajikistan where a group of Tajik opposition

forces had been entrenched for some time, ITAR-TASS was told in the press centre of the Russian border troops.

Border Troops To Get Reinforcement

LD2508073593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] The 201st Russian division deployed in Tajikistan is to hand over part of its hardware to border troops for reinforcing the defense of the border with Afghanistan. This decision was made by Russia's Defense Ministry. A group of officers from the division have gone to the border to oversee the decision's implementation.

Meanwhile the situation there remains tense. The command of Russian border troops has information about concentration on Afghan territory close to the border of detachments of Tajik opposition and Afghan mojahedins, who are preparing for an offensive.

UN Envoy Favors Tajik-Afghan Summit

LD2508080393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0635 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe, August 25—U.N. secretary-general's special envoy in Tajikistan Ismat Kittani, whose mandate was prolonged by the U.N. Security Council until October 31, has expressed satisfaction with the forthcoming Afghan-Tajik summit in a talk with Chairman of the Tajik Supreme Soviet Imamali Rakhmanov which took place after his return to Dushanbe. He stressed that the summit could be a most important landmark in the effort to reach a political settlement of the differences between the two countries.

Kittani noted that he had talks a few days ago with representatives of Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan who, in his opinion, also come out unanimously for a peaceful political settlement of the problems, including the problem of Tajik refugees in the northern part of Afghanistan. The U.N. secretary-general's envoy stressed that he would exert every effort within the limits of his mandate to help stabilise the socio-political situation in Tajikistan and on the Tajik-Afghan border. According to Kittani, a team of U.N. experts will arrive in Dushanbe within a few days with the same mission.

The Tajik leader confirmed his country's readiness to promote the closest possible cooperation with such an authoritative international organisation as the United Nations and with other international organisations helping to stabilise the situation in Tajikistan, to quickly repatriate the refugees.

In light of this, Rakhmanov informed the U.N. special envoy about the Tajik side's profound concern about the forcible detention of its compatriots in several Afghan provinces and the continued escalation of tension on the Tajik-Afghan border.

People's Party Formed; Supports 'Evolutionary' Path

LD2308135193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] A new political party has been formed in Tajikistan, the People's Party [Narodnaya Partiya]. Its organizational committee has been formed. Abdulmajid Dostiyev, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, has been elected as its chairman.

It is clear from its documents that this new political party supports an evolutionary path for the development of the country on the basis of gradual implementation of the reforms planned for the country, taking into account the objective situation and the particular features which apply to the development of the republic.

It favors strengthening of the market economy and calls for the creation of the necessary conditions to ensure the effective development of society.

National Bank Statement on USSR, Russian Rubles

LD2308174193 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] The National Bank of the Republic of Tajikistan, in connection with the spread of groundless rumors on taking out of circulation the bank notes of 1961-1992, that have been issued by the State Bank of the former USSR, and the banknotes of 1992 that have been issued by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, states:

1. The authoritative bodies of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as the National Bank of the Republic of Tajikistan have not adopted any documents about changing the money, that is now in circulation in the republic.

2. All kind of notes and coins of the USSR State Bank and the the Russian Federation Central Bank can be used without any restrictions on the territory of the republic.

3. The National Bank of the Republic of Tajikistan states that the population of the republic will be informed before, and about the measures, pertaining to changing the bank notes and restrictions on their use.

Government Takes Steps To Protect Domestic Market

LD2508082593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0708 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe, August 25—The Council of Ministers of Tajikistan adopted a resolution to protect the republic's domestic consumer market. It makes mandatory presentation of identification papers by individuals wishing to buy essential non-edible consumer goods.

The austerity measures were prompted by continuing mass export of scarce consumer goods from the republic, as well as their acute shortage in the republic itself.

Islamic Leader Interviewed on Resistance, Refugee Situation

NC2308120993 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Jul 93 p 14

[Interview with Akbar Turadzhonzade, head of Islamic affairs and a leader of the Tajikistan Islamic Movement, by unidentified KEYHAN correspondent, in Turadzhonzade's office in northern Afghanistan—date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [KEYHAN] Are international organizations providing assistance to the Tajik refugees?

[Turadzhonzade] The United Nations, the International Red Cross, people in Mazar-e Sharif, and General Dostam are the only ones providing assistance to the Tajik refugees in the camp in Mazar-e Sharif. They are in relatively better condition than other Tajik refugees.

[KEYHAN] How many refugees are there in this camp?

[Turadzhonzade] Approximately 30,000 to 35,000. The United Nations does not wish to aid other refugee camps as it has a provision that people living in them should not participate in any political or military operations and all refugees should be transferred to the Mazar-e Sharif camp so that they will be under the supervision of the United Nations and General Dostam's forces.

[KEYHAN] Does the United Nations want to keep the refugees away from the border strips?

[Turadzhonzade] Yes. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] Returning to the issue of refugees, what is their condition in northern Afghanistan?

[Turadzhonzade] Their plight is pitiful in Konduz and the international organizations do not help them at all. Certain humanitarian organizations in the Persian Gulf and philanthropists provide them with assistance.

[KEYHAN] The communist government in Tajikistan claims that it has full control over the situation, even though reports from Badakhshan and some areas in Kufarnihon and (Ramit) indicate that unrest prevails. What is your opinion?

[Turadzhonzade] During the course of their occupation of Afghanistan, the Russians made similar claims. The puppet government in Afghanistan also claimed that the situation was under control. Except for the capital and some provincial centers and cities, the Tajikistan Government has no control over the rest of the country. The government has not been able to enter Badakhshan Province. In Ramit and Kufarnihon, the resistance continued for many months. However, because of intensified aerial bombing by Uzbekistan, the resistance subsided to a certain extent. To minimize the civilian casualties we decided to transfer our resistance to other areas. Numerous people were killed in the savage bombings. In (Tavildarreh) and Kurgan-Tyube, the resistance continues, praise be to God.

Do not forget that we are seeking a political solution and we have not launched any vengeful operations against government officials and administrative employees. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] It is being said that a sort of dichotomy has surfaced among the forces of the People's Front (the ruling communists). How can these differences affect the government's stability?

[Turadzhonzade] The people in power today include a coalition of hardline communists and criminal groups. Sangak Safarov, Fayzoli Rakhmanov, Saidov, and some armed groups who were given a mandate by Russian Army intelligence and Uzbekistan are not even officially recognized by the residual Russian communists. In any case, with the killing of Saidov and Safarov, it has transpired that there is no unity in the government ranks either, and other power-seeking elements exist. When these elements perceived that they had not gained anything, they embarked on adventurism and massacred innocent people for six months while they were acquiring weapons. They have now been appointed to sensitive posts, such as chief of the logistics department. As long as such problems exist, there can be no durable government. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] You once mentioned that some persons were arrested in the refugee camps for poisoning the drinking water. Who were they and where did they come from?

[Turadzhonzade] We recently witnessed numerous cases of dysentery, food poisoning, and abdominal bleeding among the refugees and we pursued the matter. The UN doctors confirmed that toxic substances had been put in the drinking water. We arrested a person named Rasulov who confessed that in collusion with another person—(Murad), from the Uzbekistan intelligence service—he had poisoned the main reservoir so the people would get ill and return to Tajikistan. As a result, 100 persons died and 200 are in critical condition. Now the arrested persons are in our custody and we have their confessions on videotape.

[KEYHAN] We thank you for sparing some time to talk to us.

Returning Refugees Suffer Intimidation, Atrocities

PM2408160193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Aug 93 First Edition p 7

[Vladimir Berezovskiy report: "Tajikistan: Mojahedin Intimidate Refugees"]

[Text] Tashkent— Another group of refugees has returned to Tajikistan from Afghanistan. An agreement on their repatriation was signed during the recent visit to Dushanbe of H. Arsala, head of Kabul's foreign policy department. But the return home is proceeding with extreme complexity.

The chief obstacle is fear. Activists of the Islamic Revival Party are conducting purposeful propaganda to keep refugees in Afghanistan for recruitment to detachments of gunmen and so as to obtain humanitarian aid from the West. The handwritten newspaper GOLOS MODZHAKHEDA [Voice of the Mojahed] appears regularly in Sokhi [name as transliterated] Camp, for example, posted up on a water pipe. It "proclaims" that a train on which a large batch of refugees returned to Tajikistan came off the rails and overturned. Some 130 men among those who arrived in Shaartuz and Kabodiyen were shot, and women and children were taken away—it is not known to where. The rest are laboring in cotton fields, assault rifles trained on them.

The Islamicists have also gotten their own radio station of the same name. Its waves also disseminate cock-and-bull stories about bloody clashes in Dushanbe, alleging that Safarali Kendzhayev, former speaker of parliament and now prosecutor of the city of Kayrakkum, secretly met with opposition leaders and supported their struggle to create an Islamic state.

Incidentally, some of this "information" was used in "Itogi" last Sunday. The Tajikistan Foreign Ministry responded to this with a harsh protest note addressed to the Russian Embassy in Dushanbe, accusing "Ostankino" of distorting the events occurring in the republic.

The refugee problem nonetheless remains very acute. According to official data, approximately half a million people abandoned their homes, fleeing the war. Many fled to Uzbekistan, to the north of the republic, and to Dushanbe, while some made their way to Afghanistan. It is there that the situation is most grave.

For example, 24,000 Tajiks found shelter in Sokhi Camp alone, not far from Mazar-e Sharif, in the north of Afghanistan. If it were not for the United Nations, which supplies the refugees with tents, fuel, rice, sugar, oil, water, and flour and has constructed a hospital there, many would have been doomed to die. There are frequent outbreaks of typhus and hepatitis there, and cholera has now been added. Hundreds of people have died of diseases in the camp.

Refugees live in distinct clans made up of approximately 30 families. They themselves elect the elder, as a rule from among those who were chiefs at home. It is here that decisions to return are made, but they are kept secret until the last minute, so as not to run a risk. Refugees fear literally everyone: Islamicists fighting the government; Afghans, who are not averse to getting rich on their misfortune; and the Kulyab people who, in their opinion, have seized power in Tajikistan. At least, at every step here there are tales of atrocities and of the unwarranted cruelty of People's Front detachments, which contained many criminals.

According to UN data, more than 20,000 people have returned to Tajikistan recently. This flow is not drying up: Winter lies ahead, and their own homes await them in the motherland, even if they have been abandoned and often looted.

Transportation Problems Plague Pamir Region

LD2208203693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Report by correspondent S. Sokolova; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The situation in Tajikistan remains relatively calm, even though passenger railway traffic between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan was completely stopped recently. The reason for the trian cancellations was an outbbreak of cholera in the border regions of the Republic. Also, on the main Dushanbe-Khudzhant line, which is also of strategic importance, opposition groups have blown up a bridge in the Ayni section, approximately 80 km from Dushanbe. At the present time the Tajik Government is doing everything possible to restore this bridge.

In the Khaburabad pass region a section of the road along which food and medicines were delivered to Pamir has been blown up. If the road to Pamir is not restored in the near future, Gorno- Badakhshan will be without food in the winter. Motor traffic to Pamir ceases completely in the middle of November due to weather conditions.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Comments on Currency Introduction

LD2108191293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1220 GMT 21 Aug 93

[Speech by President Saparmurad Atayevich Niyazov at a conference addressing questions of monetary circulation during the introduction of the national currency set for 1 November 1993; in Ashgabat; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Niyazov] We have decided to speed up the introduction of our national currency. This is a complicated matter. There will be difficulties but they will be our difficulties. We, ourselves, will be able to control the process of eliminating them. In any event, there will be considerably less problems than if we choose a different

path. The government will take, and is already taking, all the necessary measures to alleviate this transition. We are firmly convinced that this work will be carried out successfully.

We have the full support and understanding of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other major financial groups, as well as from the governments of a number of leading states of the world. This includes support from Russia, with whom a separate agreement will be signed on these questions.

In the period before the introduction of our national currency we shall use bank notes of the old type. However, in Turkmenistan during this short period of time rubles of the old type will remain the only legal means of payment. This determines the choice of policy. We must take care to protect our own monetary system and to protect the consumer market.

Where does the greatest danger lie? It lies first of all in the threat of an uncontrolled inflow of rubles of the old type from other states, from so-called black market structures. Therefore, we have made a decision that there will be free, totally unrestricted exchange into the new currency of moneys already in our citizens' personal accounts as of 1 September this year, and of additional sums from wages which are paid into these accounts from 1 September to the exchange date.

After 1 September the paying-in of additional sums will be effected only by the transfer of wages or payments made after checking the source of the income. All account-holders will have the unhindered use of their money both before and after the exchange. At the same time, to protect the consumer market from the inflow of money from outside Turkmenistan instructions have been issued that payments for purchases costing 25,000 rubles [R] or more should be made by payment checks or by checks books. The sale of goods subsidized by the state, just as before, will be effected by coupons or on presentation of a passport.

As for the citizens of other states, where the new Russian ruble is being used as a means of payment, they can exchange rubles or freely convertible currency for payment checks or checks books in the banks in Turkmenistan and use them with no restrictions, inter alia to make purchases exceeding R25,000. Purchases below R25,000 can be paid for by rubles issued in 1961-1992 or by checks. Air and railway tickets will be sold to them for payment checks, rubles issued in 1993 or for freely convertible currency. The same applies to payments for hotel services.

The implementation of the above-mentioned measures creates certain problems for people. But could you perceive them with understanding? These measures are absolutely necessary. They have been dictated by the situation which was not created by our will or by our fault. In the end all of these measures are aimed at protecting the interests of our citizens and our state. These measures will remain in force until our national currency has been introduced. The national currency of Turkmenistan will be introduced on 1 November 1993.

Armenian Leader Visits, Signs Cooperation Treaty

LD2408203893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2013 GMT 24 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat August 24 TASS—"I have not expected to see such dynamic changes in Turkmenistan". President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan told journalists after his talks with Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov held here on Tuesday [24 August].

The talks revealed that the two sides have similar points of view on the political and economic problems caused by the disintegration of the USSR and processes aimed at renewing the broken ties.

According to Ter-Petrosyan, despite all the difficulties the independent states show their aspiration to cooperate on an equal and mutually advantageous basis. The Armenian president highly appreciated Turkmenistan's efforts to create a mechanism for establishing such ties. In Ter-Petrosyan's opinion, a meeting of heads of the 15 republics of the former USSR scheduled for October is a new tendency in the world politics which should not be underestimated.

As regards interests of Armenia, the Republic attaches great importance to the prospects of entering Asian markets via Turkmenistan as well as to guaranteed gas supplies for which it undertakes to pay in due time, the Armenian president noted.

The two sides signed a treaty on friendship and cooperation and a number of agreements on deepening cooperation in the spheres of economy and culture.

Armenia

Karabakh Leader Faults CSCE Schedule of Measures

NC2408140793 Yerevan SNARK in English 1324 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Stepanakert, August 24 (SNARK)—Acting head of the Karabakh parliament Karen Baburyan sent a responsive letter to the chairman of the Minsk group of the CSCE Mario Raffaelli.

The letter says that new version of the schedule of the extraordinary measures on the Karabakh conflict regulation and the appendix to it ignore the suggestions and comments done by the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh. Despite the numerous appeals and declarations done by the Karabakh leadership problems of the Karabakh population security are not being taken into consideration. New version as all the previous versions doesn't introduce the mechanism of how to stop military actions. This fact might enforce Azerbaijan to a current aggression in more profitable conditions. As for the communications deblockade it should start together with the withdrawal of the Karabakh troops from the Agdamskiy region, Baburyan considers.

The letter also mentions that the Karabakh side can't accept the fact that the new version determining the zone of the conflict doesn't mention "Nagorno-Karabakh".

The letter appeals to the CSCE Minsk group not to ignore the reality. It appeals to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as a conflict side which is equal in rights. It will help to overcome obstacles to peace.

Azerbaijan 'Torpedoing' Cease-Fire; Karabakh Responding

NC2408142093 Yerevan SNARK in English 1324 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Stepanakert, August 24 (SNARK)—Azerbaijani forces are guilty in torpedoing the agreement on temporary armistice achieved between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh, Geydar Aliyev admits. Azerbaijani forces are trying to take the initiative at the southern part of the front.

The Karabakh Department of Press and Information told SNARK that all the Azerbaijani attempts are being broken by the Karabakh Army which is on the high military level.

Improving positions the Karabakh forces are undertaking counterattacks.

Yesterday evening the Karabakh detachments managed to capture two strategically important hills at the Dzhebrail town, the center of the region. Azerbaijani Army met failure at last night attack at the northern-western part of the Mardakertskiy region and in the direction of the southern border of the Lachin humanitarian corridor. The Karabakh defenders made the Azeris repel to the initial positions. Azerbaijan suffers great losses. The Azerbaijani leader Geydar Aliyev explained the failures of the Azerbaijani Army by the absence of the commandment, discipline. Speaking on the Baku TV yesterday he said that the Azerbaijani soldiers do not want to resist the Karabakh detachments. Aliyev also said that the Azerbaijani forces left Fizuli following their own desire.

Yerevan Denies Occupying Dzhebrail, Advancing on Iran

NC2408185193 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The cease-fire agreement has ended; however, it was not fully implemented. Nevertheless, the talks between the two sides should be regarded as a favorable step toward maintaining the cease-fire and resolving the existing problems and disputes.

Naturally, the cease-fire agreement was important. Unfortunately, the talks [words indistinct] have not yielded concrete results because of the political situation and confusion in Azerbaijan. That republic not only failed to fully implement the cease-fire agreement, but also launched attacks on several battlefronts and fired on and bombed the NKR defense positions with various types of arms and military aircraft. Furthermore, Azerbaijan has withdrawn its military units and armored vehicles from Fizuli in order to implicate the Armenian side worldwide as the aggressor. [passage omitted]

It has been reported that dozens of Azerbaijani citizens have been taken prisoner in the clashes. Obviously, Azerbaijan's attacks and raids have harmed that country more than the Armenian side. Dozens of Azerbaijani citizens have either been killed or wounded. Naturally, the Armenian side also had casualties. The peaceful Armenian citizens in Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] have suffered more. Dozens of peaceful citizens in Gadrutskiy and Martuninskiy rayons have either been killed or wounded in the recent clashes.

As we reported earlier, Azerbaijan has continued to use its Air Force units in the fighting. Three military aircraft bombed the defense positions in [place-name indistinct], Mughanly, and Kurapatkino in Martuninskiy Rayon on 23 August. Five enemy aircraft penetrated NKR's airspace on the same day. Five peaceful residents were killed and 17 others were wounded in the bombing. In an effort to conceal their massacre, leading officials in Azerbaijan have circulated unfounded reports that Azerbaijan has been attacked. [passage omitted]

The NKR military units have fully heeded the cease-fire agreement. However, the intensified firing and uninterrupted attacks from Azerbaijan have compelled them to

take retaliatory measures. The Armenian forces launched counterattacks on 22 August and forced the enemy units to withdraw to their former positions. Azerbaijan has announced that the Armenians have occupied Dzhebrailskiy Rayon. That report is unfounded. The NKR defense positions are far away from that rayon and [words indistinct].

The situation in NKR's southern and southwestern areas is relatively peaceful. Regardless of the effort made by the Azerbaijani units to capture the Armenian positions, the operative situation has not changed.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijan's claim that the Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh are advancing toward Iran is unfounded.

The Azerbaijan military units violated the cease-fire agreement by maintaining their attacks from Kubatlinskiy Rayon against the humanitarian corridor in Lachinskiy Rayon on 23 and 24 August. The attacks were in the form of intensive and wide-scale firing.

In short, the situation on NKR's borders is tense. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan has maintained its provocative activities on Armenia's border. Noyemberyan was shelled with long-range artillery guns the night before last. Several houses were destroyed. Khndzoresk and [place-name indistinct] in Vayskiy Rayon were also shelled with artillery guns on 23 August. Obviously, as with NKR, Azerbaijan continues its aggressive activities against Armenia and is obstructing the restoration of peace and security.

Forces Attack Zangelan Region of Azerbaijan Border

LD2508111793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 25 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Armenia and Azerbaijan are still engaged in combat operation. According to news agencies, the Armenian Armed Forces, having carried out an artillery preparation this morning, attacked the Zangelan stretch of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, using infantry, armored equipment, and combat helicopters.

New Defense Minister Serkisyan Viewed

MK2408103093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Aug 93 p 3

[Liana Minasyan report: "New Defense Minister Appointed. 'Karabakh Factor' in Government Policy"]

[Excerpt] Serzhik Sarkisyan has been appointed new defense minister of the republic by an edict of the Armenian president. The minister will come to Yerevan from Stepanakert—before the appointment, he was head of the defense ministry in the Nagorno- Karabakh Republic [NKR]. Sarkisyan is 39, deputy of the Supreme Soviets of Armenia and the NKR; an active member, since 1988, of the Karabakh movement. He was at first chairman of the self-defense committee of Nagorno-Karabakh, and then defense minister. Sarkisyan is not a career military man (he graduated from the philological department of Yerevan University) but rather a practical person with several years' experience in the Karabakh war and not unsuccessful actions of the NKR army of defense, especially during the recent year.

Thus, the clear "Karabakh motif" in Armenia's domestic policy will now be even stronger. There were and are "foreigners" in the Armenian ruling nomenklatura; most of them, it is true, are members of Armenian communities in the West. The head of the leading "power" ministry has always held a special place in the government, which is natural for a country whose borders are a combat zone. This post has always been an object of eager attention by various parties, which is why the president has been trying, as a rule, to preempt the defense minister's show of political "egotism" by neutralizing the influence of the "power" ministries. The previous minister, Vazgen Manukyan, largely through whose efforts a professional army began forming in Armenia, had, to say the least, independent political views, and his quitting the post implies the start of "free sailing" for Manukyan, one of the "strongest" figures in Armenia.

The president has preempted the arguments over the unfilled portfolio, unwilling, perhaps, to hand it to any of the teams comprising his entourage. The minister from Karabakh will surely distance himself from internal policy differences in Armenia—the Karabakh people have managed to cultivate in themselves respect for a single, or perhaps, the only political will. Besides, he has come on the scene as a "winner"—successes of the Karabakh army, and the reputation of a person from the front line generally may help him find a common language with the military and the politicians.

The only case in which Serzhik Sarkisyan was "discovered" having political partiality is connected with last year's opposition rallies. The Karabakh minister's sufficiently harsh words on television against "encroachments on national accord" caused irritation among the opposition—Sarkisyan's directness and toughness was not much in line with the free style of political struggle in Armenia. [passage omitted]

Russia To Supply Government With Old Ruble Notes

LD2408215793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1846 GMT 24 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan August 24 TASS—Russia will soon supply old money to Armenia, where it is so far in circulation. The bank notes will be used to pay wages, salaries, pensions and allowances to Armenian residents as long as mutually acceptable solutions to financial

issues are found, Armenian Vice-Premier Vigen Chitechyan said here today, commenting on results of three-day talks in Moscow.

The talks were also attended by representatives of other commonwealth states. Moscow meetings with government officials and heads of the Russian Central Bank resulted in the elaboration of draft documents - a multilateral treaty on a currency union of commonwealth states-members of the rouble zone and an agreement of Russian and Armenian governments and banks.

In the words of the vice-premier, a joint meeting of the Armenian parliament and government presidiums will soon discuss the situation. As need be an extraordinary meeting of the Armenian Parliament, whose competence are radical issues of the republican financial-budget sphere, will be convened.

There is enough time for comprehensive discussion of the situation and suggested drafts, as well as for search for correct decisions, he said. In the words of Chitechyan, the final decision will be taken by commonwealth government heads to meet in Moscow on September 7.

* * *

The Russian Goznak (State Administration For the Issue of Bank notes) will mint temporary Armenian bank notes within the next two months, Armenian Minister of Finance Levon Barkhudaryan said here today.

At the same time, he stressed Armenia plans to remain in the rouble zone, and temporary bank notes is a forced measure to protect the republican domestic market from the expansion of old money (1961-1992 model), which have flown into the country from other former Soviet republics.

After a corresponding agreement is signed with the Russian Federation, the Armenian payment means will be new Russian money (1993 model). In the opinion of the minister, the rouble is the most reliable payment means for Armenia, whose economy is closely linked with the Russian market.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Addresses Supreme Soviet on Gumbatov

NC2508040093

[Editorial Report] At 0735 GMT on 24 August, Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri begins to transmit a 90-minute live broadcast of Geydar Aliyev's address to the "Supreme Soviet, [ali sovyet]"

Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Geydar Aliyev opens his statement by saying: "The Republic of Azerbaijan, the people, the citizens, are going through difficult days. The reasons are obvious: Azerbaijan is in a state of war, and on some battlefronts we have been suffering defeats because positions have been abandoned due to mistakes." He adds that measures taken so far have yielded no results because "no defense force has been created in Azerbaijan in recent years, the Army is at an unsatisfactory level; it has almost been completely nonexistent in the last two to three years, and various forces—some call them political forces, some as [words indistinct] groups—inside Azerbaijan are exacerbating the situation further for the sake of their own interests and goals."

Aliyev says that "with the recent increase in the political tension in Azerbaijan and with various forces pitted against each other, certain groups and individuals are stepping up their provocative actions, and to hide their ugly aims and to attain their ugly private objectives, they are ready to soak the people and the nation in blood and sell out the country and betray the people, and in fact this is what they are doing."

Saying the he hopes that the Azerbaijani people will muster their forces and extricate the country from its present situation, Aliyev goes on to say: "One of the most absurd incidents of this last period, which also further aggravated the situation in Azerbaijan, is the process taking place for the last few months in Lenkoran, Astara, (Verik), Massalli, Yardimli, Dzhalalabad, and other rayons; and the criminal and lawless acts committed by Alikram Gumbatov and the criminal and treacherous people and groups around him that are supported by various sources in Azerbaijan, and even by foreign administrations and treacherous individuals living on the periphery of Azerbaijan."

Aliyev goes on to add that "these criminal groups around Alikram Gumbatov" were not satisfied with committing criminal and lawless acts, but also "took over a part of the Azerbaijani Army there and prevented its dispatch to the front." Stating that "considerable amounts of arms" are in the hands of these groups, Aliyev said that Gumbatov wanted to have a say on the use of these Army units.

Aliyev then adds: "Unfortunately, in recent years Azerbaijan's defense is in not in Army's hands, but in the hands of the armed formations that belong to disparate armed units and mafioso groups," and "instead of defending the homeland they follow their private interests." Aliyev added that this has brought Azerbaijan to the present "terrible situation."

Therefore, Aliyev adds, the processes in Lenkoran could not but have unsettled the Azerbaijan people, government, and Supreme Soviet. He says much time was lost as the government acted upon "the advice of certain people to solve this problem by peaceful means and talks." He argues that this policy made Gumbatov and people around him harden their positions further "and they tried to hide their criminal activities behind political smokescreen; that is, behind the creation of a Talysh-Mugan Republic, which indirectly aimed at dismembering Azerbaijan and pitting our citizens of Talysh-origin against the rest of Azerbaijan."

Aliyev recalls that the National Assembly met between 16 and 17 August to discuss this situation and adopted a decision. He says that those who encouraged and were involved in these criminal and treacherous acts are now known.

Noting that the National Assembly asked Prime Minister Surat Guseynov to implement the resolution within three days, Aliyev says that this decision was, however, not implemented. Instead, the people in rayons around Lenkoranskiy Rayon "rose up to defend their own (?country) and expressed their objection to these lawless criminal actions." Aliyev adds that the people's action started with a large rally in Lenkoran the previous day.

Aliyev says: "Thousands of Lenkoran residents considered Alikram Gumbatov a traitor and criminal and tried to (?oust) him from there. He tried to resort to arms but he could not manage it. The people reacted and proved to Gumbatov that no matter how many weapons he had and how many criminal units were around him, he could not stand up to the people. Despite this, these criminal people, Alikram and his units, chose to attack the people and use arms against them. Undoubtedly, we appreciated the stance adopted by the people and we told them that they were acting correctly, that they had no alternative, that these things had been going on for the last few months, and unfortunately the former administration, which was in power until June—that is, Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey, the Azerbaijani parliament and its National Assembly, and Azerbaijani leaders and Council of Ministers—did not consider the actions of Alikram Gumbatov and his supporter Rakhim Gaziyev, the former defense minister, and others important. They either adopted a peaceful or passive path."

Aliyev continues by saying that after the end of July, Prime Minister Surat Guseynov assumed the responsibility for this matter and tried to settle the problem peacefully "as he had close relations with Alikram Gumbatov. And we, believing in this, calculated that—in view of other border problems—there was no reason to use force or arms here." However, Aliyev says, Guseynov's efforts and his own, and Guseynov's talks with Gumbatov on 12 and 13 August produced no results. It was only after that that the problem was brought to the attention of the National Assembly on 16 August.

Aliyev continues blaming the former administration for not being able to tackle the problem and goes on to repeat how the efforts to bring a peaceful solution produced no results. He adds that in the end the people rose up and informed Gumbatov that they would no longer tolerate such lawless actions. He says: "The situation became more acute yesterday morning. We received reports that the people of Lenkoran were gathering and objecting to Gumbatov by asking him to terminate these actions and lay down his arms. Thousands of people gathered there brought Dilbura Dzhamalova, whom we appointed there, and installed her in the executive building. Alikram Gumbatov fled, being unable to resist the people's pressure. However, this criminal continued with his [word indistinct] actions. He opened fire on the peaceful unarmed people in the square in an attempt to frighten them. The people did not get frightened. The situation was critical yesterday. That is why we sent Minister of National Security Nariman Imranov, Interior Minister Vagif Novruzoglu, and a group of Interior Ministry employees to Lenkoran. And because the situation was very tense there, I made a televised appeal to the people yesterday. You know about it. According to the messages, telephone calls, and cables reaching us yesterday, it became clear that the people have been longing for this appeal and that they generally approved of it. It created a resurgence of hope among them to the effect that there is no power vacuum in Azerbaijan, the state organs are active, and Azerbaijan has the will and will continue to have the will to defend and maintain its statehood in these grave times."

Aliyev then thanks the people for their support and reiterates that his regime "will protect Azerbaijan's statehood and independence and will prevent its dismemberment."

Aliyev then says: "When people rose up against Alikram Gumbatov and his criminal group, Gumbatov fled and hid [words indistinct]. A report said he escaped into the (?woods), another report said he was elsewhere. Finally, our representatives found out that Alikram was hiding in the headquarters of a former Soviet military division there—this headquarters controlled Gumbatov. He took control of it as a result of the activities of these treacherous Azerbaijani leaders and of Rakhim Gaziyev—and (?deployed) all his military units around it. Armed men did not allow anyone to approach it. People surrounded the headquarters until late last night."

Aliyev then says that first Gaziyev and then Gumbatov demanded that Aliyev appoint Deputy Defense Minister Vakhid Musayev as defense minister, and that after his meeting with Gumbatov, Surat Guseynov visited the Defense Ministry and personally appointed Musayev as the defense minister, "despite the fact that he had no such jurisdiction."

Aliyev adds that he had no choice but to approve the appointment. "Later, Guseynov explained to me that supposedly Vakhid Musayev is close to Gumbatov and he could disarm him and bring the armed units back under the jurisdiction of the Defense Ministry. Undoubtedly, I could not have agreed to such [word indistinct] actions." Instead, Aliyev says he asked Musayev to go to Lenkoran and solve the problem. Musayev went to "Gumbatov's hiding den." Aliyev adds: "I was informed at night that he was holding talks with Gumbatov and with our ministers in an effort to bring him to the correct path. However, none of this produced any result." Aliyev says that while these talks continued the people remained gathered in the squares at night. Aliyev says that units loyal to Gumbatov then "opened fire on Lenkoran's gathered citizens, three person were killed and five were injured."

Aliyev adds: "Nothing else could have been expected from a murderer, criminal, and traitor. However, this is not the work of Gumbatov alone. It is also the work of Gaziyev, who supports Gumbatov, it is the work of [former President] Ayaz Mutalibov, who maintains ties with Gumbatov and sends envoys to him. This is the outcome of the criminal activity of Gumbatov and related people who want to bring Mutalibov back to power in Azerbaijan."

Aliyev warns: "I declare them traitors before the Azerbaijani people. Undoubtedly, the courts, the court of justice, will pass its judgment on them."

Aliyev then declares the three people who were killed as national heroes and calls on the deputies to observe a minute of silence in their memory.

Aliyev says that despite this tragedy, "regrettably, our organs there, which were working until morning, failed to achieve the desired result. According to information reaching us, Vakhid Musayev, who was in bandit Gumbatov's den and was in contact with our ministers, had promised that he would work to bring Gumbatov out of there without any bloodshed and further military operations. The people had surrounded the headquarters until morning. It had been reported that allegedly Alikram would emerge and surrender himself. However, according to the (?latest information), three cars left the headquarters early in the morning. The other cars were under control. Gumbatov and a few of his men escaped in one of these cars and are now hiding in Lenkoran's districts, and [words indistinct]. The armed forces, that is most of the soldiers in the den loyal to Gumbatov—one cannot really say they belong to him, despite the claim to the contrary by certain people—are laying down their arms and leaving the place. Most of the people around the place are also abandoning him. However, an armed group, albeit a small one, which has committed crimes, has (?escaped) with him. His personal body guards and others have been (?detained) [words indistinct]. I hope that our security forces will find and arrest him so that he can testify before the court of justice. Not only him, but those supporting and directing him, be it Mutalibov or Gaziyev, or others, will also be called to account. Let no one doubt this. They will have to account for their actions."

Aliyev denies reports that Army battalions in Agdzhabedi are loyal to Gumbatov and that at Gumbatov's orders they are abandoning their positions in a war zone near Karabakh.

Aliyev adds: "All this shows that Alikram Gumbatov is a nobody. I reiterate that he is a tool in the hands of various groups. I said in my televised address yesterday that Gumbatov wanted to go to Iran. I informed the Iranian Government about it and the Iranian ambassador said that no one would accept him in Iran." Aliyev said that Gumbatov's supporters are behind reports of outside support from Moscow and Iran. "All these claims are lies. Neither Russia nor Iran could establish ties with such a bandit," Aliyev says, arguing that "this myth" was created by Gumbatov's supporters to impress and frighten the people. He says all these are attempts to undermine measures to stabilize the domestic situation and improve the situation on the war front. They are, he adds, "attempts to pressure me personally." He says no one can pressure him and he "will work to the last drop of his blood to extricate Azerbaijan from this situation."

He says his administration "will restore stability in Azerbaijan, and anyone obstructing us is our enemy." He refers to the appointment of new rayon officials in the southern region and says Azerbaijan's legal sovereignty has been and will be restored there. He says no one will be allowed to create disputes between the ethnic groups. He says the situation will be overcome through unity of the Azerbaijani people.

In referring to the situation in Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy Rayons, Aliyev says: "Information from Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy Rayons shows that it is the mafioso groups and their men in power in those rayons that are selling out these lands. They and people related to them, even people serving in the Army, are frightening the people and making them flee without any attack from the armed Armenian detachments. They urge the people to sell out their own [word indistinct]. I held talks with the Armenian leadership yesterday and today. We were even forced to hold talks with the leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh. We are holding talks with Moscow. The situation is very grave and serious. For that reason, I invited Vladimir Kazimirov, a Russian Foreign Ministry official on these affairs, to come. He will tour Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy Rayons accompanied by our representatives and he will investigate the situation there. I also proposed that reporters and foreign diplomats go there. I hope that we will overcome this problem."

Aliyev says that on one battlefront the Azerbaijani troops simply left, abandoning their positions and arms, and Armenians, sensing their absence, moved in. Aliyev adds: "I do not want to speak any more on this issue because I do not think that the people should know all these things. But we know of many such incidents. It is a terrible situation. I said in my speech yesterday that this is inevitable when some troops are loyal to Gaziyev, others to Abulfaz, others to the People's Front, and others to Gumbatov, while still others are loyal to someone else. This is destruction within destruction."

Aliyev urges moral uplifting and renouncing personal ambitions and interests in light of the threat facing Azerbaijani statehood. He says Azerbaijan's first task is to halt the Armenian aggression, recover the occupied lands, and save the people from this oppressive situation. The second task is to ensure domestic stability and end internal conflict.

Aliyev then speaks about the 29 August referendum on confidence in President Elchibey. He says that for more than two month now Elchibey has been out of Baku and

has been residing in Keleki in Nakhichevan's Ordubadskiy Rayon. Aliyev says that before Elchibey's escape he told him: "Since you have been elected by the people you should remain among the people. If you die it will be a heroic death." Aliyev says: "After this, it is no longer possible to be a president by (?hiding) in this manner and simply claiming to be president. In saying that I do not want to influence people's free will. However, the people must ask if such a president is needed, a president who has left Azerbaijan for more than two months and who is responsible for the past mistakes and the present deplorable situation in Azerbaijan and in the Army. Even if Gaziyev is the real culprit, the former leaders and Azerbaijani president were his (?collaborators)."

Aliyev says the Constitution gives the National Assembly the right to oust Elchibey from his post for failing to fulfill his presidential powers, but he did not allow it to adopt such a decision and opted for the democratic method so the people's will could be expressed.

Aliyev says foreign observers and representatives of various organizations have been invited to observe the referendum. He defended holding a referendum on 29 August by saying that Azerbaijan faced two difficult months and if this issue is not solved in a democratic and proper manner on 29 August the future might be even worse.

Aliyev again accuses Elchibey of being responsible for the situation and promises that he and his group will extricate Azerbaijan from this situation by taking "radical and serious measures." They will work to restore stability in Azerbaijan and will step up the fight against the criminals. Aliyev adds that Azerbaijani statehood, independence, and territorial integrity are above any person's life. "They are above even my own life and I am ready to sacrifice my life to defend the statehood and sovereignty of independent Azerbaijan."

Aliyev then asks the deputies if they want to debate his speech. The deputies say no.

Aliyev Meets With Visiting Russian Envoy Kazimirov

LD2408173393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1440 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpts] We have now got through to Baku and can hear the latest news from Azerbaijan. Here is correspondent Islam Kuliyev.

[Kuliyev] Hello. An enlarged all-republican meeting took place in the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan today, devoted to the sociopolitical situation in Azerbaijan. [passage omitted]

Right now a meeting is taking place in the Supreme Soviet between Geydar Aliyev and Vladimir Kazimirov. Welcoming him, Geydar Aliyev said that, just three days ago, here, in the Supreme Soviet, with the participation of a Foreign Ministry delegation, a draft was drawn up, providing for hostilities to be suspended by 23 August, but this cease-fire is not being observed. Geydar Aliyev said that he has been in touch by telephone with the leadership of Armenia and with the leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh, but none of this has produced results. The escalation of military operations is continuing. Towns and villages are being captured. Yesterday evening saw a new offensive by the Armenians. They tried to cut the main communications with Zangelanskiy and Kubatlinskiy rayons. Therefore, we have asked you, Geydar Aliyev said, to come here, to visit the combat area, and to see that the words and deeds of the Armenian side do not match up. As an intermediary, you could meet the leadership of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh there. We are doing our utmost to that end.

In reply, Vladimir Kazimirov said that Moscow regards those actions by the Armenian armed formations as irresponsible, since those rayons—Fizulinskiy, Dzhebrailskiy, and Zangelanskiy—present no danger to Nagorno-Karabakh, because they are a long way away from the area, and so this has aroused universal indignation.

Tomorrow, then, in accordance with a bilateral arrangement, Vladimir Kazimirov will be flying, with journalists, to the area of hostilities. I will try to tell our listeners about that tomorrow.

Russia 'Alarmed' Over Karabakh Advances

LD2408195193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1912 GMT 24 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku August 24 TASS—The Russian leadership is alarmed over the development of the situation in the Azeri south-west, as well as in the whole Armenian-Azeri conflict zone. This Russian stand was conveyed to the Azeri leadership today by Russian special envoy and head of the mediating mission for peaceful settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh Vladimir Kazimirov.

The envoy, who arrived in Baku as special representative of the Russian president on board of a special plane sent from the Azeri capital, met late at night with acting Azeri President Gaydar Aliyev.

The envoy said his "country made today an official statement on enhanced combat activities of Karabakh Armenians," which, in his opinion, acquire a dangerous character. He stressed the statement "was brought to notice of Karabakh Armenians and the Armenian leadership."

Russia cannot remain indifferent to the fate of hundreds of thousands of people, no matter what their nationality is, and demands immediate and full termination of combat operations and withdrawal of forces in the offensive outside Nagorno-Karabakh, said the official.

In his opinion, "the movement of Armenian armed units in the Fizuli and Dzhebrail regions of Azerbaijan, located outside Nagorno- Karabakh has no ground".

According to his information, "the regions do not present a threat to Karabakh Armenians". The diplomat described as "irresponsible action" further combat operations outside the enclave and said it is necessary to find out what level permitted the irresponsibility.

The envoy noted all occupational forces must be withdrawn from Azeri territories as the first step towards peace. He said Russia will act in this direction in close contact with states-members of the CSCE Minsk group and coordinate its actions with decisions taken by the United Nations Security Council.

* * *

Baku—Gaydar Aliyev agreed with conclusions of his interlocutor, in whose opinion, they should not only state the need for a political settlement of the conflict. He is convinced "actions are needed to prevent further tragedy and, that is why, the conflict must be transferred from the battlefield to negotiations' table".

In this connection, the acting Azeri president did not exclude a possibility of direct contacts with Stepanakert to prevent further escalation of combat operations, cease fire and stop bloodshed. First such contacts at the military level have been made, said Aliyev, but they do not mean "the recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent object".

He said he has had telephone conversations with the Armenian leadership in the few past days. However, he said despite the agreement on cease fire and termination of combat operations in the conflict zone till august 23, the Armenian side violated the truce, reached with the Russian mediation, on monday and seized new territories. Attempts to establish contacts with the agreement violators have not been a success, he added.

Baku Updates Armenian Troop Movements in Fizuli

NC2408134093 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1206 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Baku 24.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Armenian troops advancing to the south to Iranian border yesterday following seizure of Fizuli the Armenian troops occupied 8 more villages to the east of the provincial center, ASSA-IRADA was told by the MOD [Ministry of Defense] of Azerbaijan. By this morning they have instituted control over 50 residential areas of Fizuli. The advancing Armenian armored and infantry subunits are trying to capture the only highway that runs between Fizuli and adjacent Beylagan provinces and connects the 4 south-western provinces with the rest part of Azerbaijan.

Starting yesterday evening the Armenian troops launched encirclement of Dzhebrail, the same as of Fizuli a week ago. The fightings are going on.

At the night of August 24, the border residential areas of Kubatlinskiy, Zangelanskiy and Kedabekskiy were subjected to fire from Armenia.

Concentration of manpower by the Armenians is obvious near Gulistan village, Geranboy [Shaumyanovskiy] province.

Defense Ministry Issues Communique on Latest Fighting

NC2408183293 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense Analytical Information Center's communique is as follows:

The situation in Dzhebrailskiy and Fizulinskiy Rayons is extremely tense. In an effort to besiege Dzhebrail, the Armenian military units launched a three-pronged attack today. Meanwhile, the enemy units that have occupied Fizuli seem eager to advance. The Armenians fired on our positions in Yukhary Chykhmazlykly in Fizulinskiy Rayon with tanks yesterday.

Violent clashes are taking place in all those areas.

Kedabekskiy Rayon's border areas were fired on with automatic firearms and machine guns last night.

Diplomats, Journalists Visit Dzhebrail, Fizuli War Zone

NC2408150793 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1410 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, 24.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Representatives of foreign embassies and journalists left by helicopters for Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy Provinces today. August 24, Geydar Aliyev said at the extended session in the parliament that the officials of diplomatic missions accredited in Azerbaijan left for the zone of the most intensive hostilities in the south of Karabakh. They seek for better acquaintance with the situation on the spot.

Dzhebrailskiy, Kubatlinskiy, Lenkoran Officials Replaced

NC2408193293 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, has decreed that [name indistinct] Dzhebrail ogly Dzhamalova be appointed head of the Lenkoran City Executive Authority and Hilmi Mamed ogly Mamedov be removed from that post; (Seran) Dzhalal ogly Aliyev be appointed head of the Dzhebrailskiy Rayon Executive Authority and [name indistinct] Kerimov be removed from that post; and [name indistinct] Asadov be appointed head of the Kubatlinskiy Rayon Executive Authority and [name indistinct] Piri oglv Nuriyev be removed from that post.

Georgia

UN Security Council Authorizes Mission for Six Months

LD2508074093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0637 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations August 25 TASS—The U.N. Security Council authorised the establishment of a U.N. monitoring mission in Georgia for an initial period of six months, says Security Council Resolution 858 unanimously adopted at a Security Council meeting on Tuesday [24 August].

The Security Council ruled that the mission will consist of 88 military obvservers. Besides, it will include 56 civil employees recruited on an international basis and 46 employees recruited on the spot.

The total sum of outlays for its upkeep will amount to 16.2 million U.S. dollars for the six-month period. Further monthly outlays for the mission's upkeep are assessed at two million dollars.

The council approved the appointment of Brigadier General John Hvidegaard (Denmark) by the U.N. secretary-general as chief military observer in Georgia. The mission's headquarters is planned to be stationed in Sukhumi.

The council ruled that the mission's mandate will include control over the observance of the ceasefire agreement signed in Sochi on July 27. Special attention will be given to the situation in the city of Sukhumi. The mission will also investigate reports on ceasefire violations and try to resolve these incidents with the sides involved in the conflict.

To implement efficiently ceasefire observation functions, the U.N. secretary-general suggested that the mission combine the use of stationary observation posts in the Sukhumi sector and four patrol groups in the Ochamchira sector.

Helicopter patrolling will be used together with car patrolling. It is also planned to set up two check points on the Psou River and one point on the Inguri River to exercise control over river crossings.

Speaking at the meeting, Russian chief delegate Yuliy Vorontsov called the establishment of the U.N. mission in Georgia "an important step enabling the United Nations to give real assistance to efforts to fulfil the ceasefire agreement in Abkhazia and the control mechanism over its observance, which was signed in Sochi on July 27, and to settle politically the protracted conflict in Abkhazia".

"The document signed in Sochi creates real conditions to ensure stable ceasefire and to turn to the next stage—the drafting of a full-scale political settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia. The agreement provides for the international community's active assistance in normalising the situation in Abkhazia.

"The Russian side is convinced that the presence of U.N. observers will be of great political and practical importance. It is vitally needed to ensure efficiently a firm ceasefire regime and to observe strictly other provisions of the Sochi agreement of July 27," the Russian ambassador stressed.

Deputies Protest to UN Over Russian Army Presence

LD2408205793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpts] One hundred and twenty-three Georgian members of parliament have sent the following address to Mr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, UN secretary general:

Your Excellency, Mr. Secretary General,

On 8-10 August 1993, in the Bzyb river zone, Abkhaz separatists gathered the remaining Georgian population, about 300 people, and forced them to write statements saying they give up ownership of their homes, after which they were transported to Adler across the Georgian-Russian border, crossing the Psou river. Thus, the Abkhaz separatists completed the ethnic cleansing of the western territory of the Gumista river. When carrying out this operation, they shot at the defenseless civilian population. [passage omitted]

It is a widely established fact that the main force controlling the Abkhaz territory from the Gumista river to the Russian-Georgian border is the Russian regular army. The only factor that prevents the Georgian authorities from defending the lives of their citizens in the above-mentioned zone is the presence of these armed forces in this zone. Thus, the Russian Federation is mainly responsible for the criminal acts against the Georgian population in this zone.

Having said that, we think it impossible that the Russian Armed Forces can participate in the activities of the peace-keeping forces in charge of resolving the Abkhaz conflict under UN auspices.

We ask the General Assembly and the Security Council to take our view into consideration and not to allow the participation of the Russian armed forces as members of the UN peace-keeping forces in Abkhazia.

Trilateral Group Investigates Delays With Pullout

LD2508100093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0948 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow August 25 TASS—A trilateral working group formed to oversee compliance with the ceasefire

agreement between Georgia and Abkhazia in the military and security field is meeting in Sukhumi, Abkhazia today to look into causes of delays with the Georgian troop pullout from the conflict zone.

Georgia's failure to conform to the approved timetable for the withdrawal of troops may evoke undesirable reaction in Abkhazia, observers say.

ITAR-TASS learned in headquarters of the joint Russian-Georgian-Abkhazian commission that Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov and Chairman of the Russian State Committee for Emergencies Sergey Shoigu are taking part in the meeting.

Georgians Withdrawing From Sukhumi

LD2508111493 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1055 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Sukhumi, 25 Aug—Nodar Muselidze, head of the Georgian headquarters of the joint commission, told an IBERIA correspondent today that 13 railway flat cars with military equipment have left for Tbilisi. Also today, military equipment is being put on a barge which arrived in Sukhumi from Poti.

The tripartite commission on a conflict settlement in Abkhazia is expected to meet in Sukhumi today.

Disengagement Proceeds; Japanese Delegation Arrives

LD2408190393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1420 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Now, some news from Georgia. Zurab Dvali, correspondent of the IPRINDA news agency, is on the line.

[Dvali] Life is gradually coming back to normal in the Abkhazia area now that the conflict is over—or at least we would like to believe that it is. According to the press center of the Georgian military command headquarters, disengagement in Sukhumi under the supervision of UN observers is on the whole proceeding normally, even though the Georgian side is not always able to strictly observe the agreed schedule for hardware withdrawal, but there are objective reasons for that.

Observers have started carrying out their task in Ochamchirskiy Rayon, where UN observer posts were set up in the villages of Labra and Tamysh, as well as along the Kodori River.

The number of refugees returning to Sukhumi is growing.

Another thing linked with the process of stabilization in Abkhazia is yesterday's meeting between Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze and Russian President Boris Yeltsin. As we know, the two sides agreed at the meeting to carry on with their joint efforts to restore peace in Abkhazia.

Still on the subject of diplomacy, one should certainly mention the arrival in Tbilisi of Japanese Ambassador to Russia Sumio Edamura with his spouse and accompanying representatives from Japanese business circles. Today Mr. Edamura will meet Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze and Parliament Speaker Vakhtang Goguadze. A ceremony in which Japan's ambassador to the Republic of Georgia will present his credentials is to take place, and in the evening the Japanese visitors will be received by Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze.

We have learned from the republic's Foreign Ministry that the Japanese delegation has delivered humanitarian aid to Georgia, i.e. five tonnes of medicaments. Tomorrow, representatives of Japan's business circles intend to visit a number of industrial enterprises in the republic with the aim of establishing closer ties with their Georgian counterparts. Also tomorrow, the Japanese delegation flies from Tbilisi to Dushanbe.

Caucasian Movement Chairman Opposes Shevardnadze

AU2008180593 Tbilisi SASHUALO PENA in Georgian No. 6 Aug 93 p 1, 8

[Interview with Merab Chukhua, chairman of the All-Georgian Iberian-Caucasian Movement, by David Davituri; place and date not given: "Immorality Reigns Today in Georgia"]

[Excerpts] [Davituri] Batono Merab, the All-Georgian Iberian-Caucasian Movement was formed quite recently. Could you explain to us its essence and significance?

[Chukhua] The Iberian-Caucasian Movement has been in existence in Georgia for a long time. This is the spiritual demand of the Georgian people as the Georgian nation cannot be alone among the other nations of the world. It is linked through genetic roots with other kindred peoples. These are, first and foremost, the native peoples of the contemporary Caucasus with whom forms of relations have already being carved out, relations that became firmly established through the course of history. These peoples are: the Abkhazians, Adegey, Circassians and Kabardinians, Ubikhs (who are on the verge of extinction; only a few dozen [as published] remain in Turkey), Abazgi, Kists (by these I mean the Chechens and Ingush), Atsbi [Atsbebi] or Tsova-Tush who today live in Georgia, and also the peoples of Dagestan who form large ethnic groups and who are too numerous to mention.

These are, in the main, those peoples who are genetically (or by birth and linguistically) linked to the Georgians. This is called kinship. Our movement is based precisely on this or on the movement of these peoples.

Our movement is based on the kinship of these peoples, on common origins, and a common consciousness, psyche, and code of honor. There exists a common

Caucasian or Iberian code of honor and these people are the bearers of this code of honor. We have always had a single criterion by which we measure morality, humaneness, and human goodness. Now, they are seeking to trample on this and are struggling against this and want to outlaw the Georgian nation in the Caucasian land. All dark forces are directing their efforts toward this. It is precisely this that our movement is opposes. It is the peoples' movement and has been approved by history. Our movement wants precisely to awaken the psyche of common origins or a common Caucasian consciousness in the peoples of Iberian-Caucasian stock. This is the significance and essence of our movement. Georgia has not existed without the Caucasus and will be unable to exist without it. Therefore, our movement is promoting in every way relations with the other peoples living in the Caucasus. We want to struggle according to the way of [deposed President] Zviad Gamsakhurdia. We recognize the Zviad Gamsakhurdia phenomenon as a common Caucasian phenomenon. I have repeatedly stated that it is precisely he who has saved the Caucasian consciousness and it is not by chance that he is today in Chechnya. Chechnya is a part of the Iberian Caucasus. Chechnya is close to Georgia both territorially and spiritually. [passage omitted]

[Davituri] At what stage is the Iberian-Caucasian Movement today?

[Chukhua] You said that our movement has just now come into existence. I cannot agree with this. Perhaps it was formed officially quite recently b . this movement has existed here for a long time as both a political and scientific movement. The foundations for the latter were laid by the academician Arnold Chikobava. However, as regards the political Iberian-Caucasian movement or the general Caucasian movement, this aspect is directly linked with Zviad Gamsakhurdia although he had great ancestors. The movement is based in Georgia, in the main in Abkhazia and Samegrelo and Tbilisi although we also have members in Kvemo Kartli and an initiative group has been formed in Rustavi and also in Gori, Shida Kartli, and Samachablo [South Ossetia]. As you can see, our movement is working and struggling in those places where the Georgian genus and Iberian-Caucasian race are suffering the most. I wish to point out that we should not consider the Abkhazians as our enemy. Georgia today has just one enemy. This is Eduard Shevardnadze and all those dark forces that are connected with him. We bear no hostility to the Abkhazian people but, as for the Abkhazian separatists or Kremlin agents in Georgia, we declare an uncompromising struggle against them. We will not let anyone violate the territorial integrity of Georgia. However, it will be protected only when the legal authorities are restored in Georgia. Georgia has no other fate. The most important task of our movement at this stage is to restore legality to Georgia. I cannot tell you when Zviad Gamsakhurdia will return to Georgia as it is not for us to bring him back. He will come to Georgia when the situation is ripe for this. Our aim is only to facilitate this process as far as we can. Z. Gamsakhurdia was not taken away by anyone and will not be brought back by anyone; his idea is that of beaming freedom on the Georgian nation and this idea will never be defeated by anyone. [passage omitted]

[Davituri] As is known, E. Shevardnadze had the desire to venture into the Caucasus, engage in action and establish his own bases there. What is your attitude to this?

[Chukhua] I will tell you bluntly and clearly that no place will be found for Shevardnadze in the Caucasus. [passage omitted]

E. Shevardnadze will be unable to acquire the common Caucasian consciousness as Z. Gamsakhurdia is linked with flesh and blood to the Caucasian code of honor whereas E. Shevardnadze is a worthless man.

However, E. Shevardnadze has not got used to all this. He wanted such dark deeds as took place in Georgia to happen elsewhere as well. There exist reliable facts pointing to E. Shevardnadze's direct participation in the slaughter of Ingush that was organized in October-November 1992. This war was provoked in order to bury once and for all the insubordinate soul of the Ingush nation and its striving for freedom. The lion's share in this belonged to E. Shevardnadze and his government.

[Davituri] Do you know this from reliable sources?

[Chukhua] Of course. This information came from the Chechen press. On one occasion, 365 million rubles, and on another, more than 1 billion were confiscated, money that the Shevardnadze junta was sending to finance the so-called opposition in Chechnya so that they could carry out a coup. What occured in Georgia was supposed to have happened in Chechnya and this was to have been financed by the Kremlin and its agents in Chechnya through Shevardnadze. [passage omitted]

Estonia

Foreign Ministry Concerned Over Troop Withdrawal Issue

LD2508090393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Aug 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] It appears that Boris Yeltsin has managed today to reach better mutual understanding with neighbors from the so-called far and beyond [dalneye zarubezhye] than with the current leadership of former USSR republics. Thus, the Estonian Foreign Ministry has voiced its concern over the suspension of the withdrawal of troops from Lithuania. Estonia is urging Russia to abide by accords with Lithuania on troops withdrawal, and welcomes Russia's readiness to conclude similar accords with Latvia and Estonia, the Estonian Foreign Ministry statement said.

Newspaper Urges Upgrading of Russian Delegation

LD2508083493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0716 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn August 25 TASS—The Russian delegation to talks with Estonia should be led by the defence minister or his deputy. This is what the Estonian side should demand if it wishes to conduct an equitable dialogue with Russia, according to a local newspaper. The newspaper, POSTIMEES, says that the present rank of the Russian delegation head—Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Vasiliy Svirin—does not suit the other side, because the Estonian delegation is led by Juri Luik, 27, who was appointed Estonia's defence minister a few days ago while retaining the post of the leader of the Estonian delegation to negotiations with Russia.

The next round of talks is expected to be held in Moscow in early September.

Finnish Military Delegation Visits 24 Aug

WS2508120693 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0721 GMT 25 Aug 93

[From 25 August RAHVA HAAL, PAEVALEHT, POSTIMEES, p 1]

[Text] Wednesday, August 25—An inofficial visit of the Finnish Defence Forces delegation began yesterday. The delegation is headed by Commander-in-Chief of the Finnish Defence Forces Admiral Jan Klenberg and includes the Finnish Ambassador to Estonia Jaakko Kaurinkoski, head of the Finnish GHQ training section Colonel Antti Numminen, aide to the Admiral Major Kalle Liesinen and the Finnish Military Attache Colonel Yurij Honkanen. This is the first high-ranking Finnish military delegation to visit Estonia since 1939.

The delegation met President Lennart Meri yesterday. The President informed the visitors of the relations between the Baltic states and Russia after Russia's decision to suspend the troop withdrawal from Lithuania. Relations between the Baltic states and economic cooperation were also discussed. Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the development of the Finnish-Estonian relations. The President held a dinner for the Finnish delegation.

The Finnish delegation also met Prime Minister Mart Laar, Defence Minister Juri Luik and held negotiations with Commander-in-Chief of the Estonian Defence Forces General Aleksander Einseln. The delegation visited the Defence Forces GHQ and discussed further Finnish aid. Ten Estonian non-commissioned officers graduated from a military school in Finland, ten more are currently training and another ten are to start this autumn.

New Defense Minister Outlines Priorities

LD2408160193 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Excerpts] President Lennart Meri confirmed Juri Luik's appointment as defense minister today, 23 August. [passage omitted] According to the premier's previous statements Luik will also continue work as leader of the Estonian delegation at the interstate talks with Russia for the time being. [passage omitted]

The new defense minister said to ETA that first he will tackle the handover of the ministry from his predecessor Hain Rebas and familiarize himself with the unfinished work at the ministry. According to Luik he is starting work as defense minister from the most important aspect: to speed up the drafting of defense legislation.

In the new defense minister's opinion relations between the Defense Ministry and the defense forces headquarters must definitely be clarified. He noted that he appreciates the work of his predecessors: Ulo Uluots and Hain Rebas. Commenting on matters to do with the light infantry company [at Pullapaa, which wanted to break away from the defense forces in July], Luik said that for the time being the government commission will be dealing with this. On Monday [23 August] he had a lengthy meeting with the commission.

Latvia

Russian Army Chief: Troops Authorized To Use Firearms

WS2508123293 Tallinn BNS in English 1033 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] RIGA, Aug 24, BNS—The commander in chief of Russia's Northwest Army Group has the authority to

allow its troops to use firearms "to protect their honor and respect," says a statement from the group's press service.

The army command warned the Baltics of "serious consequences that may arise" if separate persons or groups try to "settle accounts with the Russian military."

The statement condemns attempts by "extreme nationalist forces in Lithuania" to polarize the situation in Lithuania through their opposition of the suspension of the Russian troops' withdrawal.

"Army units, stationed in Lithuania, have sufficient means and forces to defend themselves and their families, and to ensure the inviolability of the Russian state border," the statement says.

Russian Supreme Soviet Deputies Demand Rubiks' Freedom

LD2308170193 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Twenty-seven deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation have adopted an appeal to Latvian Parliamentary Speaker Anatolijs Gorbunovs and Saeima deputies. A demand is expressed in the appeal to discontinue hearings in the criminal case instituted against Alfreds Rubiks [former Latvian Communist Party chief], free him from detention, and restore his parliamentary immunity.

False allegations in organizing the coup d'etat have not lessened our respect for Alfreds Rubiks who, while being in detention, was elected a deputy, says the appeal by the Russian deputies. They are alarmed by the fact that a representative elected by the people is denied the right to carry out his duties as a deputy, which is discrimination of the electorate who cast ballots for Rubiks.

Lithuania

Movements of Russian Servicemen To Be Restricted 1 Sep

LD2508113293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] From 1 September, the Lithuanian authorities are to tighten control over the movement of Russian servicemen who remain on the territory of Lithuania after 31 August, the date of the previously agreed deadline for the withdrawal of Russian troops. According to BALTFAX, this was reported by Stasys Knezys, chief of staff of the Lithuanian Armed Forces. He elaborated that as of 1 September a permit regime is being introduced for the entry and exit of Russian servicemen to and from Lithuania.

Brazauskas Releases Statement on Russian Troop Withdrawal

LD2408142193 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] A statement issued today by President Brazauskas says in particular: As president of Lithuania I feel the mood of the people and I undertake to do everything possible in order to get the Russian Army to leave Lithuania as quickly as possible without infringing our positions of principle. Lithuania is ready to seek a solution acceptable to both sides and to continue the dialogue. Despite the sharp statement [as heard], Lithuania has no interest in conducting a psychological or cold war with Russia. The firm and restrained position of Lithuania is yielding its first results. Even in this exacerbated situation, dialogue with Moscow has not been broken off. New possibilities have now opened up for continuing this dialogue and for achieving a solution acceptable to both sides. By realizing these possibilities, the Russian Army will be withdrawn in the very near future, and relations between Lithuania and Russia will become fully normalized.

Defense Minister on Russian Withdrawal Suspension

WS2408153793 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1228 GMT 24 Aug 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 315]

[Text] Vilnius, August 23 (ELTA)—The suspension of the withdrawal of the Russian army from Lithuania is Russia's political step deliberately ignoring rules and resolutions of UN, CSCE, other international organizations and army withdrawal time-table agreed upon by the Lithuanian and Russian defence ministries in Moscow on the 8 of September, 1992. By this Russia ignores principles of the biggest world's countries concerning army withdrawal and applies rude pressure on Lithuania, refuses to negotiate, forces Lithuania to give up principles adopted in the referendum of the 14 of June, 1992 - says a statement by the Lithuanian Defence Minister Audrius Butkevicius. I assume all responsibility by stating that the statement by the Russian army group chief general [word indistinct] dispatched [word indistinct] ITAR TASS saying that the withdrawal of the army from Lithuania has been and continues to be misregulated, fails to comply with reality, said Audrius Butkevicius. The number of the Russian officers on the 8 of September, 1992, when the terms of withdrawal have been signed, was 34.6 thousand, mainly concentrated in five divisions with total of 295 units. Now, only 2.5 thousand Russian officers remain in Lithuania. Lithuanian Defence Ministry, complying with Government's orders referring to Russia's pledge to follow the withdrawal schedule, is also contributing to the technical aspect of this process. Ministry's groups of receiving military equipment works in every military unit, while relations between Lithuanian and Russian officers remain friendly. There are no technical obstacles for

completion of the withdrawal. 85 percent of Russia's military equipment have been pulled out, the rest is ready for transfer to the Republic of Lithuania.

Suspension Due to 'Domestic Intrigues'

WS2408153993 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1307 GMT 24 Aug 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 315a]

[Text] 24 August 1993—The Russian pullout could have been prevented from being suspended, had disagreements of opinion not been made open by Lithuanian delegation for negotiations with Russia, by Lithuanian Foreign Ministry, president's team and by opposition parties, the Lithuanian Defence Minister Audrius Butkevicius said in an interview published in today's issue of Respublika daily. The suspension of Russian pullout came as the result of domestic intrigues with political parties squabbling, trying to discredit their opponents, and placing their ambitions above strategically important interests of the state, Mr Butkevicius said. On the other hand, Russia has not obtained from Lithuania what it has been aspiring at and has displayed its poor diplomatic potention [as received], according to Butkevicius. He also added that exerting of pressure neither demonstrates shrewdness of political reasoning nor brings advantage to Russia. In the minister's opinion, the compensation issue over which Russia seems to be so touchy cannot be settled finally by a political agreement on army withdrawal. Principles of compensation should be discussed, such as restoration of potention of the Lithuanian defence system, or compensation for ecological damages. Russia's attempt to tighten its policy towards the Baltic states is evident, but Lithuania's goals are different and are directed towards eliminating of barriers between Lithuania and Russia, towards increasing of stability and paving a path for mutually favourable trade and foreign investments. Only such relations create conditions for guaranteeing security of the Lithuanian state, the minister concluded.

Russian Army Commander on Withdrawal Delays

LD2408192393 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0800 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] As a result of the delay in the signing of agreements with the Baltic states, the army withdrawal may not be completed by the end of 1994. We will be physically unable to do this, stated Mayorov, commander of the Northwestern Army Group.

After the signing of agreements with Germany, Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia, Mayorov continued, the withdrawal of our units started from these countries. In the Baltic states Russia took into consideration the wishes of these countries and started withdrawing the army independently, without waiting for agreements. However, this gesture of goodwill has most probably been regarded as Russia's weakness.

The commander is astonished at the fact that the sum of $146 billion for the alleged damage done by Russia has emerged in the agreement already coordinated by the Russian and Lithuanian delegations. In addition, Lithuania's obligations to Russian servicemen present on its territory disappeared from the agreement.

Speaking of the army withdrawal, Mayorov said that everyone stresses the words "complete and speedy" but totally forget the word "orderly." We cannot run from here. We must sign juridical documents providing for the obligations of the sides. One cannot forget the fate of people and the army's property. Therefore nothing can be done speedily.

Brazauskas, Envoy to UN Discuss Visit to United States

WS2508073693 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1307 GMT 24 Aug 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 315a]

[Text] 24 August 1993—President Algirdas Brazauskas received yesterday Lithuanian Ambassador to UN, Aniceetas Simutis. Discussions at the meeting centered around the president's pending visit to USA and his speech to be presented at UN General Assembly. The politicians also deliberated on issues related to the establishment of premises for a mission at UN and for a consulate, as well as on relations between Lithuania and Russia. The Lithuanian president's visit to USA is scheduled for late September. He is to speak at UN General Assembly on September 28. Mr Simutis said the chance of Mr Brazauskas being received by the American president in New York would run high. Mr Brazauskas is going to meet with representatives of the Lithuanian emigre in USA. His visit to Los Angeles and meeting with the Lithuanian community is presently under consideration. Mr. Simutis said Russia has to keep to its international commitments made on the army pullout from Lithuania. Russians should be highly interested in a speedy withdrawal since otherwise they cannot expect economic support from USA. A move to back Russia economically is to be signed by President Clinton in upcoming days.

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26 Aug 1993